



This undated photo released by the Saudi Press Agency is said by them to show Jabir al-Fayfi, a Saudi militant who had joined al-Qaida in Yemen and who surrendered to Saudi Arabia in late September 2010. Jabir al-Fayfi provided the tip that led to the thwarting of the mail bomb plot, Yemeni security officials said Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

Yemen: Al-Qaida insider told Saudis of bomb plot

AHMED AL-HAJ
HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Information that helped thwart the plot of U.S.-bound mail bombs wired to explode on cargo planes came from an al-Qaida insider who was secreted out of Yemen after surrendering to Saudi authorities, Yemeni security officials said Monday. The tip reflects how Saudi Arabia has worked aggressively for years to infiltrate al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which is operating in the unruly, impoverished nation on its southern doorstep. The tip came from Jabir al-Fayfi, a Saudi who was held for years at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and was released to Saudi Arabia in 2007. Soon after, he fled Saudi Arabia and joined the al-Qaida affiliate in Yemen, until he turned himself in to Saudi authorities in late September.

Continued on Page A12

Tomas passes just north of Aruba

Tropical storm expected to strengthen

By GLENFORD PRESCOTT
Associated Press

Hurricane Tomas weakened to a tropical storm Sunday night after tearing off roofs and downing power lines in the eastern Caribbean. The potentially dangerous storm headed West – Southwest towards Aruba on Monday then continued a westerly direction passing 65 miles North of Aruba.

Forecasters said Tomas could regain force and veer toward earthquake-stunned Haiti, where some 1.3 million people living under tarps and in tents are vulnerable to heavy rains and wind.

With maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph), Tomas slipped under the threshold for a hurricane.

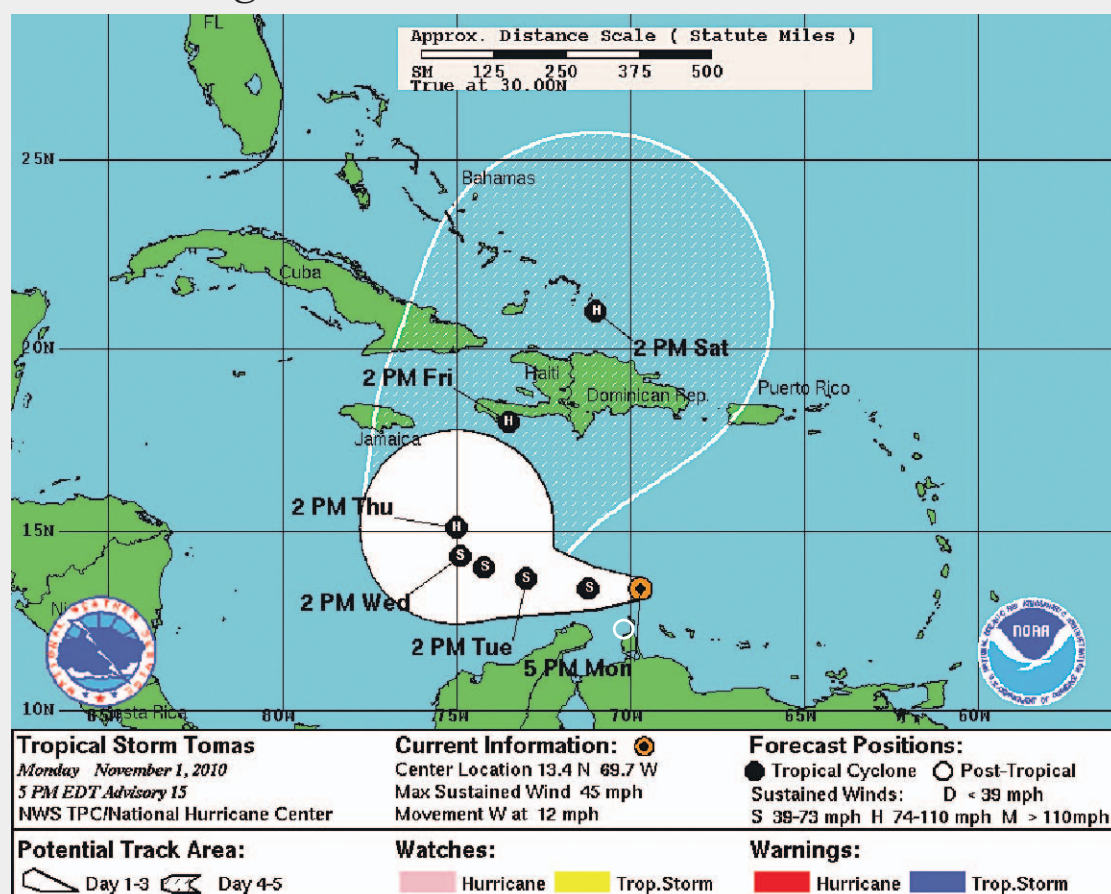
The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami predicted more weakening during the next 24 hours before it begins to strengthen again around midweek.

Daniel Brown, a center forecaster, said Tomas is “likely to strengthen when it’s over the central Caribbean,” and Haiti could be hit by rains from outer bands in another couple of days.

Late Sunday, Tomas’ center was steaming west over open waters at nearly 15 mph (24 kph), posing no immediate threat to land. It was expected to continue on that track for the next two days, then gradually turn toward the north.

Brown said it’s too early to say how strong Tomas could be later in the week or if Haiti might suffer a direct hit, but “there’s certainly going to be the threat of heavy rainfall” in the impoverished nation, where widespread deforestation and ramshackle homes mean even moderate rains can cause devastation.

Aid workers in Haiti fear the worst. Hundreds of thousands of people there have only rudimentary shelter nearly 10 months after the Jan. 12 earthquake, and a cholera epidemic has killed more than 330 and hospitalized nearly 5,000.



The Center Of Tropical Storm Tomas Was Located Near Latitude 13.4 North...Longitude 69.7 West last evening just 65 miles North of Aruba. Tomas Is Moving Toward The West Near 12 Mph...19 Km/Hr. This General Motion With A Decrease In Forward Speed Is Expected During The Next Day Or Two.

“It’s just so complex and it’s very serious,” said Imogen Wall of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

“We are so stretched already with the cholera, and we are running a daily earthquake response as well.”

Two deaths and a few injuries were reported from Tomas in a cluster of islands at the Caribbean Sea’s eastern entrance.

St. Lucia Prime Minister Stephenson King told a local radio station that an American tourist drowned Saturday at Cas En Bas beach in the island’s north. He did not know the tourist’s identity or immediately provide any other details. A 31-year-old St. Lucian woman also died in a road accident during the storm, he said.

Authorities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines said two workers were hospitalized after they were blown off a roof by high winds.

St. Vincent Prime Minister

Ralph Gonsalves said fierce winds tore roofs from scores of homes and more than 1,000 people sought emergency shelter as the islands plunged into darkness. Widespread flooding triggered landslides that cut off as many as 30 roads, marooning hundreds of residents.

“I have been told that over 300 houses have suffered some level of damage,” Gonsalves said Sunday. “There is also serious damage to fruit trees, bananas and other infrastructure, and this is going to cost the state millions.”

Chief Agricultural Officer Reuben Robertson said “most of our farmers have taken a serious beating.” On the nearby island of St. Lucia, high winds ripped the roofs off a hospital, a school and a stadium and toppled a large concrete cross from the roof of a century-old church, government officials said. A landslide blocked a main highway linking the capital to the island’s south.

St. Lucians were deluged by 21 hours of sustained rain starting Saturday morning. On Sunday, dead animals floated in swollen rivers and people in the capital of Castries took to streets to clear fallen branches, broken glass and other debris.

At least 20,000 people were without power on Martinique, and streets flooded and tree branches were down. A cruise ship carrying nearly 2,000 tourists docked instead in Dominica.

Tomas earlier toppled power lines and damaged houses in Barbados as a tropical storm. In Haiti, food and fuel were being stockpiled in southern areas expected to be most directly affected by Tomas, and emergency shelter materials were being distributed to the camps in Port-au-Prince.

But with no shelters or organized evacuation plans — and for most people, nowhere to go — Haitians will largely be on their own.

Tomas was the 12th hurricane of the season in the Atlantic. □

Elizabeth Smart kidnap suspect kicked out of court



Brian David Mitchell is escorted into the Frank E. Moss Federal Courthouse Monday, Nov. 1, 2010, in Salt Lake City. Jury selection began Monday for Mitchell's trial in U.S. District Court on charges related to the kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart in 2002.

(AP Photo/Jim Urquhart)

By JENNIFER DOBNER
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The man accused of the 2002 abduction of Elizabeth Smart was kicked out of a federal courtroom Monday for singing hymns as jury selection for his trial got under way. U.S. District Judge Dale Kimball tolerated about a half-hour of Brian David

Mitchell's soft hymns before ordering Mitchell to be taken to another room in Salt Lake City's federal courthouse to watch Monday's proceedings by remote video.

Kimball also rejected Mitchell's request to don the robes he was wearing when he was arrested with Smart in March 2003, nine months

after the girl vanished from her bedroom.

Mitchell faces federal charges of kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor across state lines. He could spend the rest of his life in prison if convicted.

Federal prosecutors moved to take over the case in 2008 after a parallel state court case stalled over questions about Mitchell's mental health.

Kimball decided earlier this year that the Mitchell is competent to face trial. The 57-year-old had been diagnosed with a delusional disorder and twice deemed incompetent for trial in state court.

Defense attorneys maintain Mitchell is unable to participate in his own defense. In court papers, attorneys have said they'll mount an insanity defense, claiming Mitchell was so impaired in 2002 that he can't be held legally responsible.

Some 600 potential jurors

were called for the trial. After exclusions based on hardships or responses to a 42-page juror questionnaire, about 220 remained to be questioned in person by attorneys for both sides.

Jury selection could take several weeks, and the trial is expected to last into December.

Defense attorneys had sought to move the trial out of Utah, claiming that publicity of the case since Smart's abduction in 2002 had tainted the jury pool and make it difficult for Mitchell to get a fair trial. Both Kimball and the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver rejected that request.

Smart was 14 when she was kidnapped at knifepoint from her home on June 5, 2002. She was recovered nine months later after a motorist spotted her walking the streets of a Salt Lake City suburb with Mitchell and his now-estranged wife, Wanda Eileen Barzee. Now 22, Smart is

expected to return to Utah from serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in France to testify against Mitchell. Smart testified for the first time last year as part of a competency hearing for Mitchell, saying that within hours of her kidnapping she was forced to become Mitchell's polygamous wife and endured repeated rapes and other abuses throughout her captivity.

Barzee, 64, pleaded guilty last year to federal charges related to Smart's kidnapping and is serving a 15-year term in federal prison.

The plea came after Barzee was ordered by a state judge to undergo forced mental health treatment at the Utah State Hospital to restore her competency to stand trial.

As part of a plea agreement, Barzee said she would cooperate with prosecutors in cases pending in state and federal court. □

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Convicted Palin hacker asks probation in Tennessee

By BILL POOVEY

Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A former Tennessee college student convicted of hacking Sarah Palin's e-mail in 2008 is seeking probation but federal prosecutors contend he should go to prison for trying to "derail a national election."

Prosecutors in a court filing ahead of David Kernell's Nov. 12 sentencing hearing in Knoxville recommend 18 months imprisonment "to reflect the seriousness of the defendant's conduct, promote respect for the law and provide just punishment." Defense attorney Wade Davies disagreed, filing a motion that says probation is justified, partly because of the 22-year-old former University of Tennessee student's youth. Part of the motion for probation is filed under seal. Documents say only that it includes protected health information from treatment Kernell received as a juvenile.

A jury in April convicted Kernell on charges that include unauthorized access to a protected computer and destroying records to impede a federal investigation. The maximum possible penalty for destroying or concealing records to impede an investigation is 20 years, according to the government's sentencing memorandum. Applying sentencing guidelines to Kernell, however, the memorandum says the penalty ranges from 15 months to 21 months.

Davies said that instead of destroying evidence as prosecutors contend, Kernell helped preserve computer records and left an easy trail for them to follow.

Jurors at the trial acquitted Kernell of wire fraud and deadlocked on an identity theft charge.

"The public humiliation, trial, and felony conviction are enough to deter any future violations of the law," according to the defense motion. Neither Davies nor the chief prosecutor at the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Weddle, returned telephone messages seeking comment Monday.

The former Alaska governor and her daughter Bristol testified that the hacking, followed by Kernell's online bragging and providing the password and Palin family telephone numbers to others, caused them emotional hardship. Palin previously declined comment about Kernell's sentence and said it should be up to the judge. The prosecutors' pre-sentence filings said Kernell, a Democratic legislator's son, said: "I read through the e-mails ... all of them ... before I posted, and what I concluded was anticlimactic, there was nothing there, nothing incriminating, nothing that would derail her campaign as I had hoped, all I saw was personal stuff, some clerical stuff from when she was governor ... And pictures of her family ... I read everything, every little Blackberry confirmation ... all the pictures, and there was nothing..."

Prosecutors said Kernell had no prior criminal conviction but their sentencing memorandum includes a reference to 2001 when Kernell and another student at a middle school guessed a password and gained access to school records that included lesson plans. The memorandum shows Kernell was "determined to be responsible" for the unauthorized access. □

No involvement in Levy killing

Gary Condit on the stand again, after a decade

By MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON —

Former California Rep. Gary Condit told jurors Monday that he didn't murder Chandra Levy and insisted he cooperated fully with police when they investigated the Washington intern's disappearance nearly a decade ago.

But he continued to evade direct questions on cross-examination about whether he had an intimate relationship with Levy, saying "we're all entitled to some level of privacy."

A Salvadoran immigrant, Ingmar Guandique, is on trial for murdering and attempting to assault Levy back in 2001. Prosecutors say Guandique had a history of assaulting female joggers in Rock Creek Park, where Levy's remains were found.

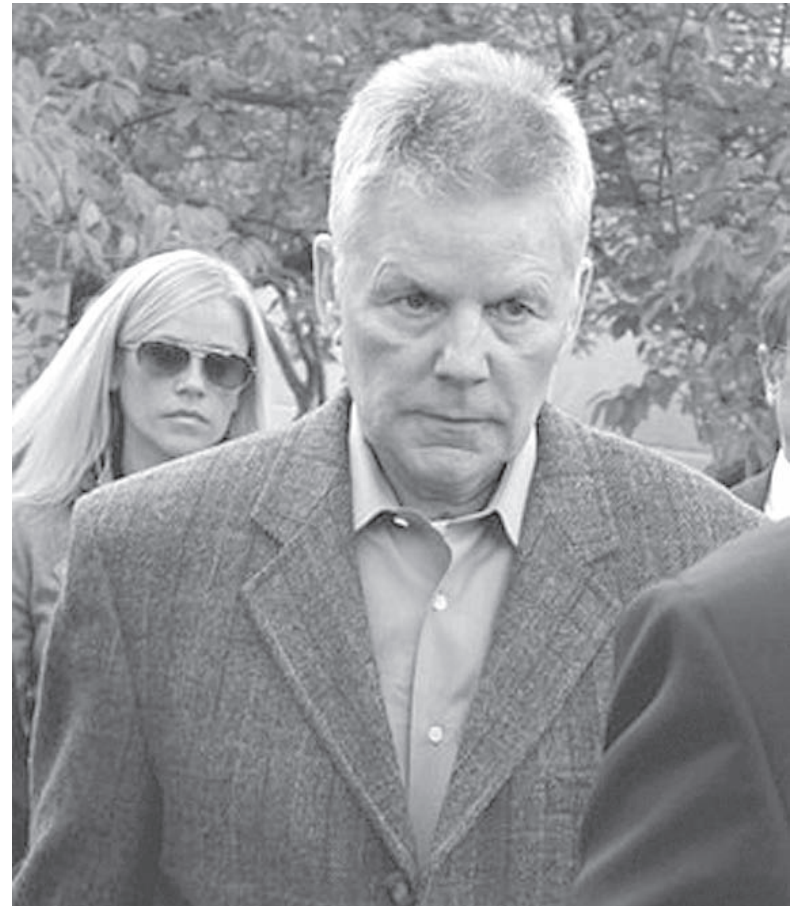
But it is Levy's relationship with Condit that vaulted her disappearance into a national sensation nine years ago. Condit was once the primary suspect of police but they no longer believe he had anything to do with Levy's death.

Condit testified Monday that he fully cooperated with the police investigation, despite his concerns that detectives were "incompetent" and out to get him.

The only question he refused to answer, he said, was when a detective asked in an initial interview if he'd had a sexual relationship with Levy.

Condit said he responded: "If you can tell me why that's relevant, I can answer the question." He said the detective never answered and the interview ended.

Until that interview — about a week after Levy went missing — Condit said he never realized he was considered a suspect. He had called D.C. police at the urging of Levy's father to make sure they were taking Levy's disappearance seriously,



and he assumed that initial interview with police was to provide him an update on the investigation's status.

Prosecutor Amanda Haines never asked Condit if he and Levy had an affair, but she did ask why he never acknowledged an affair. His voice broke slightly, and he said it was "purely based on principle."

"I think we're all entitled to some level of privacy ... It seems like in this country we've lost a sense of decency. I didn't commit any crime; I don't think I've done anything wrong."

On cross-examination, though, public defender Mario Hawilo put the question to Condit directly: Did you ever have an intimate relationship with Levy? "I have already stated I'm not going to respond to those questions," Condit said. Hawilo persisted until Superior Court Judge Gerald Fisher told her to move on.

The issue came up repeatedly throughout the cross-examination, with Hawilo asking at one point: "Are you refusing to respond because you think the answer will incriminate you?"

At another point, Hawilo suggested Condit failed to give police the whole truth about his relationship. Police asked him in one interview, "What was the nature of your relationship with Miss Levy?" and Condit

responded he was friends with her. In his testimony Tuesday, he insisted he gave the full truth to police but declined to answer whether he equated a sexual relationship with friendship.

Eventually, the judge rubbed his face in frustration and called the attorneys for a bench conference. He never required Condit to answer the question directly about his relationship with Levy.

Throughout his testimony, Condit, a Democrat who represented parts of central California, referred to police investigators that he believed were hounding him unfairly and refusing to believe legitimate alibis he provided to them. He constantly referred to the media attention as a "circus" and said investigators were "out of line" when they demanded to interview his wife.

Condit also became emotional when he described how the Sept. 11 attacks wiped his name from the headlines. He said there were 100 reporters staking out his apartment that morning. After the planes hit, they were all gone, he said.

At the end of his direct testimony, Haines asked Condit directly: Did you murder Chandra Levy? He responded "No." He also responded "no, ma'am" to the question of whether he had anything to do with her disappearance. □



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Mail bombs 4 times larger than Christmas plot



By **GEIR MOULSON**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Al-Qaida's top bombmaker raised his game, officials believe, by following his miss on a crowded U.S.-bound passenger jet last Christmas with four times more explosives packed into bombs hidden last week on flights from Yemen.

The two bombs contained 300 and 400 grams of the industrial explosive PETN, according

to a German security official, who briefed reporters Monday in Berlin on condition of anonymity in line with department guidelines. By comparison, the bomb stuffed into a terrorist suspect's underwear on the Detroit-bound plane contained about 80 grams.

Early forensics on the two bombs packed inside computer printer cartridges point to Ibrahim al-Asiri, the master bomb maker for the

Yemen-based group known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

"It shows that they are trying to again make different types of adaptations based on what we have put in place," said John Brennan, President Barack Obama's counterterrorism adviser. "So the underwear bomber, as well as these packages, are showing sort of new techniques on their part. They are very innovative and creative."

Al-Qaida's propaganda machine remained unusually silent about the attacks Monday as U.S. counterterrorism officials looked for new ways to root out the Yemen-based group. Its members number about 300 people hidden in an area of rugged, desert twice the size of Wyoming.

U.S. counterterrorism teams headed for Yemen to hunt for suspects in a plot that revealed security gaps in the worldwide shipping network and reminded the West that al-Qaida was constantly looking to exploit those gaps.

With the U.S. already deeply involved in Yemen's fight against terrorism, it was not immediately obvious how to effectively increase military and intelligence efforts in the impoverished country.

The U.S. and its allies Monday further tightened scrutiny of shipments from Yemen. U.S. counterterrorism officials warned police and emergency personnel to be on the watch for mail with characteristics that could mean dangerous substances are hidden inside. And Germany's aviation authority extended its ban on air cargo from Yemen to include passenger flights. Britain banned the import of larger printer cartridges by air on Monday as it also announced broader measures

to halt air cargo from Yemen and Somalia following the ink cartridge bomb plot.

Yemeni authorities on Monday continued to hunt for suspects tied to the mail bomb plot, but a young woman arrested soon after the attacks were thwarted was released. Investigators there said someone had stolen her identity and used it to mail the package. U.S. and British officials said they believed planes were the targets, not the two Chicago-area synagogues named on the addresses. Exactly how the bombs would have worked, however, remains a focus of investigators. One package was wired to a timer. A second was wired to a cell phone.

Activating a bomb by cell phone while a plane is in midair is unreliable because cell service is spotty or nonexistent at high altitudes. Further complicating the plot, it be would unlikely for terrorists in Yemen to know which planes the bombs had been loaded onto and when they were airborne.

With U.S.-bound cargo out of Yemen temporarily frozen, Transportation Security Administration chief John Pistole said Monday the U.S. would provide Yemen with new screening equipment for cargo. Yemen has promised to step up its security at airports. The U.S. had been monitoring intelligence on an al-Qaida mail bomb plot for days when a specific tip came in from Saudi Arabia, identifying tracking numbers for the packages. A Yemeni official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation, identified Jabir al-Fayfi, a Saudi militant who had joined al-Qaida in Yemen, as the tipster. It's unclear, however, what level of detail al-Fayfi

provided. He was captured in Yemen last month and was turned over to the Saudis before the packages were mailed, making it unlikely he would have known the tracking numbers.

Nobody, including the Internet-savvy al-Qaida group in Yemen, has taken credit for the failed attack. Jihadist Web sites contained numerous messages praising the attempted bombing but nothing official from the group's leadership. The group claimed credit for the Christmas attack three days later.

Though al-Qaida core is based in the lawless tribal regions of Pakistan, offshoot groups have sprung up in other countries, including Yemen and Algeria. The Yemen group is the most active affiliate and has become a leader in recruiting and propaganda, especially in the West thanks to its English-speaking, U.S.-born spokesman, Anwar al-Awlaki. The U.S. is providing some \$300 million in military, humanitarian and development aid to Yemen this year, according to State Department counterterrorism coordinator Daniel Benjamin. About half of that is for military equipment and training, including some 50 special-operations trainers for Yemeni counterterror teams. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Monday that the U.S. would not reduce that aid in response to the failed attack.

The FBI, Pentagon and CIA all have people on the ground in Yemen, working with counterterrorism officials in Yemen. A military and intelligence campaign, financed and directed by the U.S., to target al-Qaida has had mixed results. □



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Early clues:

What to watch in Tuesday's elections

By NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — How early will America know if it's a Republican romp or if Democrats somehow minimized their damage? There should be plenty of clues Tuesday evening — and long before bedtime. Final results in some states might not be known for days. But trends could be evident from the Midwest and South — especially from Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia — even before most of the nation has finished dinner. Six states have polls that close at 7 p.m. EDT, and 16 more close by 8 p.m., featuring plenty of telling races in the East and Midwest. First up: Indiana, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Vermont, offering the first hard evidence of just how big a night it's going to be for Republicans.

Not even their mothers expect the Democrats to gain ground. It's just a question of whether they fall back or over a cliff. If the GOP can unseat Democratic Rep. Baron Hill in Indiana's always-hard-fought 9th congressional district, for example, that's a good sign for the expected Republican takeover of the House. And if they can capture all three seats they've got an eye on in Indiana, that could well signal a GOP hurricane.

On the other hand, if Democrats hold their ground in Indiana, and if their Kentucky Senate candidate, Jack Conway, can beat back Republican Rand Paul, it could be an early indication that GOP gains won't challenge the record books and that the tea party is serving weak brew.

A few tips on what to watch as the returns roll in Tuesday night (all times are EDT):

HOUSE

Expectations are high that Republicans will pick up at least the 40 seats they need to retake control of the House after four years of Democratic rule. That should start in the Midwest.

In Ohio, where polls close at 7:30 p.m., six Democratic-

held seats are in jeopardy. In Pennsylvania and Illinois, where polls close at 8 p.m., 10 more are at risk.

If Midwestern incumbents such as Joe Donnelly in Indiana and John Boccieri in Ohio fall, Republicans are probably headed for huge gains nationwide. Measure Democratic resilience if the party manages to hold on to a pair of imperiled Georgia seats, and if Rep. John Spratt can win a new term in South Carolina.

Worth watching in Florida (an 8 p.m. poll close): a rematch between Democratic Rep. Ron Klein and Republican Allen West. A loser two years ago, West rides anti-incumbent sentiment and is easily outspending his opponent.

Even if Republicans demonstrate early strength Tuesday night, it will take time for them to lock in enough districts to ensure a GOP majority. That's because the West Coast states of California, Washington and Oregon are home to 67 House districts. In 2006, it was 1 a.m. before it became clear that control of the House had passed from Republicans to Democrats

SENATE

It would take a true blowout for Republicans to pick up the 10 Senate seats they need for control. The first should be an easy one, in Indiana. But if Paul can't keep Kentucky in the GOP column, it would be a sign of strength for Democrats and a symbolic setback for the tea party activists.

Republicans should have an easy time holding onto one of their own vacant seats in Ohio, where former Republican Rep. Rob Portman is favored. But keep an eye on West Virginia, another 7:30 poll close state, where Democratic Gov. Joe Manchin and Republican millionaire industrialist John Raese are tussling over the seat long held by the late Democrat Robert Byrd. A Republican victory there could keep alive GOP hopes of a majority.

Three-term Sen. Blanche Lincoln could be the first

Senate Democratic incumbent to fall, when polls close in Arkansas at 8:30 p.m.

Polls close at 10 p.m. in the most closely watched race of the night: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's battle in Nevada against tea party favorite Sharron Angle.

Even if Republicans show huge strength, the nation still could go to sleep Tuesday night with unanswered questions about the makeup of the Senate: Polls don't close until 1 a.m. in Alaska, where it could take days or weeks to determine the winner of a three-way race for Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski's seat. How long could the suspense drag on?

In 2006, it took until 8:30 p.m. the day after the election to determine that Democrats had taken control of the Senate from Republicans. And in 2008, it was nearly eight months after Election Day before it was determined that Democrat Al Franken had won Minnesota's Senate race, giving Democrats control of their 60th seat in the Senate,



Rand Paul, left, Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate seat held by retiring Sen. Jim Bunning right, smiles as he receives encouragement from Bunning during a campaign stop at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in Boone County, Ky. Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

exactly the number needed to overcome a Republican filibuster.

GOVERNORS

For all the focus on Congress, there will be plenty of suspense over how big a real estate-grab the Republicans can manage in governors' mansions around the country. South Carolina will offer an early measure Tuesday night of tea party strength: Republican Nikki Haley trailed for months before Sarah Palin's endorsement and a tea party surge helped her nail the

GOP nomination. Now she's favored over Democratic state Sen. Vincent Sheehen.

Over the next few hours, results will roll in for the blue-state Northeast, where Democrats are facing tough GOP challenges in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Connecticut. If Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick goes down in the liberal bastion of Massachusetts, it's a sign that the tea party fury over taxes and big government is spreading far and wide. □

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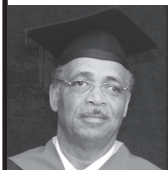
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Megachurch pastor denies abuse allegations

By GREG BLUESTEIN,
Associated Press

ATLANTA – The megachurch pastor accused of luring four young men into sexual relationships categorically denied the allegations for the first time in a court filing Monday, saying he was only a mentor to the men who filed civil lawsuits against him. Bishop Eddie Long has for weeks vowed he would fight the lawsuits in court, and promised in church sermons he would not let the legal troubles prevent him from doing its work. But he did not deny the allegations until he filed a legal response Monday saying each of the “claims of sexual misconduct are not true.”

The men, who were 17 and 18 at the time, say Long abused his spiritual authority to lure them

into trysts with cars, jewelry and cash. Their attorney B.J. Bernstein said she doesn’t have much physical evidence backing up the complaints, but that she plans to subpoena records from Long that will show he traveled with the young men to New Zealand and elsewhere.

Bernstein declined to comment because she had not yet received the response. Bishop, though, said in the four separate documents that he often encouraged his New Birth Missionary Church members to call him “daddy” and that some even called him “grandaddy,” but that the term was a sign of respect.

The bishop also said in the documents that he has long shared rooms with some of his church members, and that his parishioners often hug

him. And while he admitted to giving the plaintiffs gifts, he said he often provided many members of his church with financial assistance.

Long became one of the nation’s most powerful church leaders over the past two decades, transforming a suburban Atlanta congregation of 150 into a powerhouse of 25,000 members that includes high-profile athletes, entertainers and politicians.

The bishop is a father of four who has been an outspoken opponent of gay marriage and his church has counseled gay members to become straight. But the TV preacher’s empire was threatened in September when the four men filed the lawsuits.

Two of the young men say he targeted them after they enrolled in the church’s



FILE - In this Sept. 26, 2010 file photo, Bishop Eddie Long speaks at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church near Atlanta. Long, the famed pastor of a Georgia megachurch said Sunday, Oct. 3 that he won’t be pulled into a street fight over the allegations and vowed that his faith has been strengthened.

(AP Photo/John Amis, Pool)

LongFellows Youth Academy, a program that taught teens about sexual, physical and financial discipline. The other two — one of whom attended a satellite church in Charlotte, N.C. — have made similar claims.

Local and state authorities have declined to investigate because Georgia’s age of

consent is 16. And Long, for his part, has promised in church sermons that he would not let his legal troubles prevent him or his church from doing its work.

“I feel like David against Goliath,” he said in a sermon in September. “But I got five rocks, and I haven’t thrown one yet.” □

Appeals court extends life of gay military policy



FILE - In this July 4, 2009 file photo, military personnel join the march during an annual gay pride parade in central London organized by Pride London, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender charity. Most of America’s closest allies opted years ago to allow gays to serve openly in their militaries. As U.S. policymakers wrestle with the issue, there’s sharp disagreement over whether those allies’ experiences are relevant to the debate.

(AP Photo/Akira Suemori, File)

By LISA LEFF,
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – A federal appeals court on Monday indefinitely extended its freeze on a judge’s order halting enforcement of the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, heightening pressure on the Obama administration to persuade the U.S. Senate to repeal the law before a new Congress is sworn in.

A divided three-judge panel

of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted the U.S. government’s request for a stay while it challenges the trial court’s ruling that the ban on openly gay service members is unconstitutional. The same panel, composed of two judges appointed by President Ronald Reagan and one appointed by President Bill Clinton, on Oct. 20 imposed a temporary hold keeping “don’t ask, don’t tell” in place.

Monday’s decision means gay Americans who disclose their sexual orientations still can’t enlist in the armed forces and can be investigated and ultimately discharged if they already are serving.

“We continue to warn service members that it is unsafe to come out as long as this law remains on the books,” said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

In an eight-page order, two judges said they were persuaded by the Department of Justice’s argument that U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Phillips’ worldwide injunction against the policy “will seriously disrupt ongoing and determined efforts by the Administration to devise an orderly change.”

“The public interest in enduring orderly change of this magnitude in the military — if that is what is to happen — strongly militates in favor of a stay,” Judges Diarmuid F. O’Scannlain and Stephen S. Trott wrote in their majority order. “Furthermore, if the administration is successful in persuading Congress to

eliminate (the policy), this case and controversy will become moot.”

Another reason they gave for imposing the freeze was decisions by four other federal appeals courts that cast doubt on whether Phillips exceeded her authority and ignored existing legal precedents when she concluded gays could not serve in the military without having their First Amendment rights breached.

Judge William Fletcher entered a partial dissent, saying he would have preferred the panel had heard oral arguments before granting the stay. Fletcher said he would have prevented “don’t tell, don’t tell” from being applied to discharge any existing service members while the case was on appeal.

“Defendants would not be required during the pendency of the appeal to change their recruiting practices, to change their personnel manuals, or, subject only to the requirement that they not actually discharge anyone, otherwise to change their practices,” Fletcher said. President Barack Obama repeatedly has said he opposes

“don’t ask, don’t tell” but favors ending it legislatively instead of through the courts. Over the summer, he worked with Democrats to write a bill that would have lifted the ban, pending completion of a Defense Department review due Dec. 1. The legislation passed the House but was blocked in the Senate.

The president has pledged to push for another vote during Congress’ lame duck session after Tuesday’s elections.

“The president claims to want to see ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ ended. It is time that he stop talking and start working to make a real difference for gay and lesbian Americans by pushing for repeal when Congress returns,” said R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, the gay rights group that sued to overturn “don’t ask, don’t tell” in Phillips’ court.

The court ordered the government to submit its brief in its broader appeal by Jan. 24 and gave Log Cabin Republicans until Feb. 22 to reply. It did not schedule oral arguments in the case. □



PALM BEACH – Generous checks were recently delivered to some of Aruba’s charity foundations, of funds collected by Salamander Holdings NV. Salamander Holdings NV owns and operates the Juggling Fish, T.H. Palm & Company, the Coconut Trading Company and the Lazy Lizard, fun stores located in the hotel areas.

In 2008, Managing Director Jodi Tobman announced an on-going fund-raising initiative called Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world, named after an ancient Hebrew philosophical-belief, that the repair of the world is possible by mean of charity. Tikkun Olan was initially introduced at T.H. Palm & Company in March of



Salamander Holding Continues Giving with Tikkun Olam



that year, when the first donations were given to a select group of local not-for-profit organizations. Eighteen months later in November of 2009, with the opening of the Coconut Trading Company at the Village Mall the first donation was given to the just-formed Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad. Clients who shop at both T.H. Palm & Company, Playa Linda Beach Resort, and at the Coconut Trading Company at the Village Mall help direct a percentage of their purchases to their favorite local foundation, in the form of bi-annual donations.

In collaboration with their clients, to date, Salamander Holding NV had given more than Awg 75.000 to the Edmund E. Harms Hospice Foundation, to Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad, to Fundacion Pa Nos Grandinan, and Club Kibrahacha, to Imelda Hof children’s home, to Koningin Wilhelmina Kanker Fonds, and to Telefon Pa Hubentud Aruba.



The Tikkun Olam Menu is available at the stores, and clients can study it to choose their favorite charity. In the near future, Aruba’s autism foundation will be added to the list, and will become one of the foundations supported by Salamander Holdings NV

in the spirit of the Hebrew Kabbalah which believes that we are responsible for the welfare of our society, and that we are in charge of creating a better world. Pictured here the foundations visited with a check from Salamander Holdings NV. □



Adult Halloween has jumped 2,000 percent in the past decade

Move over Kids and Candy, Adults take Halloween to all heights on Aruba



in the United States and now here on Aruba, the real money is found in the grownup aspects of the holiday: costumes, dance parties, club nights. The growth in adult

Halloween dwarfs pumpkin sales. The holiday is catching in Germany, too. Influenced by U.S. military personnel, the Germans used to acknowledge Halloween as



Fashionistas and celebrities alike readied their best costumes for last weekend's red carpet dress-up events. Halloween is a holiday with ancient pagan roots, but the modern extravaganza of candy, pumpkins and sexy nurse costumes is even more fun than New Year's events. Some folklorists trace Halloween to an ancient Celtic holiday in the British Isles. But until recently, the British had long forgotten

the day: Two decades ago, Halloween hardly existed in the United Kingdom, never mind continental Europe or Japan. All that has changed in the blink of an eye. Halloween has gone global -- and Halloween's success tells us something interesting about the modern world. The British grocery chain Tesco sold 1.4 million pumpkins on Sunday. But in the United Kingdom as



a children's holiday. But since 2000, Halloween has become an adult craze. One-third of German teenagers attended some kind of Halloween party this year. The biggest of all the German Halloween parties takes place at the original Castle Frankenstein, reportedly inspiration for Mary Shelley's novel, near Darmstadt in the Rhineland. The Japanese have taken Halloween to over-

enthusiastic heart. Consumers can now buy Halloween Bento boxes and seasonal pumpkin-flavored Kit Kat bars. Bizarre, horrifying and -- above all -- sexy costumes have become a national pastime. To understand the global appeal of the Halloween holiday, go back to its origins. Halloween is overwhelmingly an adult holiday. This year, for example, Americans spent an estimated \$800 million

on costumes for children, \$1 billion on costumes for adults. Where did that adult dress-up party begin? As best we can tell: in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood. In the 1970s, that neighborhood emerged as the heart of a new home-owning, bourgeois, coupled gay community. A local variety store had long sponsored a Halloween street festival for kids. In the 1970s, the street festival transitioned into an

adult party of lavish costumed theatricality. The "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence" -- a troupe of transvestite nuns -- got their start here. It's not just a party. It's an ideal of personal emancipation, self-expression and self-fulfillment -- an ideal that loses none of its power when it takes the form of a sexy nurse's outfit. Take a look at who really got into the Halloween spirit this year. □



Bucuti Beach Resort hosts a Bulgarian/Texan Wedding



to Bulgaria, she met Cedric. Several months later, Cedric left sunny Texas to pursue Desi in snowy Bulgaria to celebrate her birthday. When Desi was offered relocation to Texas, she couldn't say no to the opportunity of being with Cedric.

"We've been together ever since," shared the couple. Cedric proposed to Desi during a trip to Belgium on a lover's bridge near their inn. Wedding plans ensued, and while looking for a destination, the couple searched for a tropical destination associated with Europe where English was spoken predominantly. Cedric then remembered his trip to Aruba in 1999.

"We looked online and, after reading all the great reviews of Bucuti, we knew we had found the right place," explained Desi, the happy bride. "Aruba really was a perfect choice for our wedding. Our families and friends came from various parts in the U.S.



EAGLE BEACH - Desislava Koleva from Tarnovo, Bulgaria, and Cedric Evans from Fort Worth, Texas USA, recently held a beautiful beach wedding on Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort's 'Dream Beach of the World'. Twenty seven guests travelled to Aruba to witness the couple exchange their wedding vows. To conform to an authentic Bulgarian tradition, the bride's family brought water and flower blossoms from

Bulgaria to incorporate into the celebration. During the ceremony, the bride knocked over a copper cauldron containing water and flower blossoms just before she walked down the aisle, spilling the bucket of water for good luck. Cedric is an attorney, and Desislava (Desi for short) works in marketing. Desi was on a business trip in Austin, Texas, where, shortly before she was scheduled to return



and Europe, and Aruba served as a beautiful and relaxing platform for everyone to share this special day with us." □





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HUMAN HINTS

Release The Past By Embracing The Future

As soon as something happens, it is in the past, it is over. What happens in the present constantly changes your existing potentials. Every present moment alters your future options and potentials.

What your options and potentials become, depends on your attitudes and intentions in each moment. The future is created in the moment. If our emotions get stuck in the past, we will generate more of the past to come our way. This is one reason it is important to grieve, then let go.

Letting go of the past requires only that you look to the future. Think of the new potentials that are now open to you. Follow your excitement. When you're excited about the future, the past will quickly lose its grasp on your emotions. I know that spiritual teachers tell us to live in the now. Living in the now is an abstract concept that doesn't seem to work in this realm of physical separation. The more planning we do, the higher the chance that things will go smoothly. If we plan to eat, we don't go hungry. If we plan our financial future, we don't go broke.

As Humans, we must learn to use the tools at our disposal in order to survive. When faced with change, look toward your new future instead of dwelling on what no longer exists. Occupy your mind with hope and promise instead of dwelling on what has passed.

Until Tomorrow.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

HumanHints.com, PO Box 997, Vail, CO 81658

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Edward Spitzbarth honored at the Costa Linda Resort

EAGLEBEACH - Recently at the Costa Linda Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring



were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Costa Linda Resort, where they call their home away from home. Edward Spitzbarth was honored as a Distinguished Visitor after visiting Aruba for 11 years.

On picture Mr. Croes from ATA and Edward at the Costa Linda Resort. □



BOMB PLOT*Continued from Front Page*

Yemeni security officials said they believe al-Fayfi may have been a double agent, planted by Saudi Arabia in Yemen among al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula militants to uncover their plots. The officials said that after his return to the kingdom, he told authorities that al-Qaida was planning to send bomb-laden packages.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. Tribal leaders in Yemen aware of the situation, and similarly speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed al-Fayfi's role. Saudi officials did not respond to calls for comment.

Saudi Arabia has been recruiting informants in the terrorist network and also has been paying Yemeni tribal chiefs — and even gives cash to figures in the Yemeni military — to gain their loyalty.

President Barack Obama thanked Saudi King Abdullah, a top U.S. ally, in a Saturday telephone call for the “critical role” by Saudi counterterrorism authorities in uncovering the plot. After the Saudi alert, two bombs hidden in packages mailed from Yemen and addressed to synagogues in Chicago were discovered Friday on planes transiting through Dubai and Britain.

Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri, considered a key figure in al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, is the chief suspect behind assembling the sophisticated mail bombs, according to U.S. intelligence officials.

German officials said Monday the mail bombs contained 10.58 ounces and 15.11 ounces of the explosive PETN — enough to cause “significant” damage to the planes. By contrast, the explosives that failed to work last Christmas on a Detroit-bound airliner used 80 grams of PETN secreted in the underwear of a Nigerian passenger. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for that. The warning from Germany came as investigators tried to trace bomb parts and look for

any more explosives possibly sent from Yemen.

The Yemeni National civil aviation committee decided late Sunday to tighten security in Yemeni airports, according to the state Saba news agency. The committee, headed by the minister of transport, said cargo leaving the airports will be thoroughly inspected and shipping agents will have to get licenses in line with international standards. The committee also approved a new airport security force.

While al-Fayfi may have provided broad outlines about the plot, it appears Saudi Arabia had other sources.

U.S. officials have said the tip was specific enough that it identified the tracking numbers of the packages. The Saudi newspaper Al-Watan on Monday cited Saudi security officials as saying the kingdom gave U.S. investigators the tracking numbers, which al-Fayfi likely would not have known since he surrendered well before the packages were mailed.

Al-Fayfi's surrender may have revealed other plots as well. In mid-October, a couple of weeks after his surrender, Saudi Arabia warned European authorities of a threat from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, saying the group's operatives were active on the continent, particularly France.

Al-Fayfi, who is in his mid-30s and is known by the nom de guerre of Abu Jaafar al-Ansari, was captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan after the 2001 toppling of the Taliban there. According to documents from Guantanamo, he spent time at Osama bin Laden's hideaway at Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan in November-December 2001, during a U.S. air assault on the al-Qaida mountain stronghold. Al-Fayfi was held at Guantanamo until early 2007, when he was released to Saudi Arabia.

There, he was put through the kingdom's rehabilitation program for militants. But soon after leaving the program, he fled to Yemen and joined al-Qaida, according to the Saudi Interior Ministry. In September, he contacted Saudi authorities, saying he wanted to turn himself in.



Parcels are ready for transport at the UPS distribution center at the International Cargo Airport in Cologne, western Germany, Monday Nov. 1, 2010. After intercepting two mail bombs addressed to Chicago-area synagogues, investigators found out that packages that terrorists in Yemen attempted to smuggle onto an aircraft in a brazen al-Qaida terror plot, were moved through Cologne.

Associated Press

A private jet was sent to the capital of San'a to bring him to Riyadh, Saudi security officials told the Saudi-owned daily Al-Hayat.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is made up of several hundred militants and appears to be aggressively seeking to recruit American and European radicals who could provide a way for the group to carry out attacks in their homelands. Yemen provides a potentially easy entry point for foreign radicals to link up with al-Qaida, with a number of popular Islamic religious and Arabic-language schools that attract students from around the world.

Most of the militants, however, are Yemenis and Saudis — including many Saudis who belonged to al-Qaida's branch in the kingdom until it was crushed by a heavy crackdown in the mid-2000s.

Since then, Saudi intelligence has aggressively been pursuing them, even as the militants have vowed both to kill Saudi officials and to topple the Yemeni government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The Saudis deeply distrust the ability of Saleh's regime to crack down on militants, seeing Yemen's security forces as incompetent.

The frustration with the Yemenis climaxed last year when al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula came close to

killing Prince Muhammad bin Nayef, a member of the royal family who runs the Saudi counterterrorism program.

Al-Asiri's brother, Abdullah, posing as a reformed jihadist, detonated a bomb hidden inside a body cavity, killing himself but only slightly wounding the prince.

Forensic analysis indicates that Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri built the bomb carried by his brother, as well as the explosives carried by the Nigerian on the Detroit-bound flight.

The attack on the prince “was the thing that infuriated the Saudis and made them step up their intelligence operations in Yemen and almost completely sidestep the Yemenis,” said a Yemeni security official familiar with the kingdom's activity in his country.

“They recruited hundreds of informers and began to spend even more lavishly on their allies,” said the official, who agreed to share the information in exchange for anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

For years, Saudi Arabia has also been known to be giving cash rewards to tribal chiefs, senior military officers and politicians.

In large areas of mountainous Yemen, where infrastructure is often poor to nonexistent, tribes hold far more power than the central government

and are better aware of militants' comings and going. Some tribes, disenchanted with San'a, have provided shelter to al-Qaida fighters.

President Saleh, meanwhile, is hampered by trying to balance his policies toward the tribes, making it difficult for him to crack down on those harboring militants for fear of a backlash. With oil revenues declining, he does not have the cash to tempt them to surrender the militants in exchange for better services or jobs for their followers. His security forces lack discipline and are poorly armed, save for those reporting directly to him or close family members, and are mostly deployed in San'a. The Saudis are fully aware of all this.

“It is a case of the Saudis distrusting the Yemenis on the war against terror,” said Mohammed al-Sabry, a Yemeni analyst. “What was once a lack of coordination between the two nations is now a serious problem between them.”

Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi expert on al-Qaida, said the Saudis “managed to do a superb job in Yemen. ... You have to have someone inside in order to get the job done.”

He said Saudi Arabia has been working to infiltrate al-Qaida elsewhere, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, “but we have done a better job in Yemen.” □

Mexico: 4 U.S. citizens killed in separate attacks

OLIVIA TORRES

Associated Press

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Four U.S. citizens were shot to death in separate attacks in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexican authorities said Monday.

Chihuahua state prosecutors' spokesman Arturo Sandoval said Edgar Lopez, 35, of El Paso, Texas, was killed Sunday along with two Mexican men when gunmen opened fire on a group standing outside a house.

On Saturday, a 26-year-old U.S. woman and an American boy were slain shortly after crossing an international bridge from El Paso. Giovanna Herrera and Luis Araiza, 15, were shot to death along with a Mexican man traveling with them just after 11 a.m., Sandoval said.

Sandoval said authorities also identified a 24-year-old woman killed Friday inside

a tortilla shop as Lorena Izaguirre, a U.S. citizen and El Paso resident. A Mexican man was also found dead in the store.

Sandoval did not provide any information about possible motive in any of the slayings. U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley confirmed three of the killings but did not have any information about Izaguirre. He said officials had been in touch with the victims' families but offered no other details.

Ciudad Juarez has become one of the world's deadliest cities amid a turf war between the Sinaloa and Juarez drug cartels. More than 2,000 people have been killed this year in the city, which is across the border from El Paso.

Elsewhere in Mexico, three city police officers were gunned down early Monday in a drive-by shooting as

they patrolled the heart of Acapulco's upscale tourist district, authorities said.

Another officer was wounded, according to a statement from the Public Safety Department in southern Guerrero state, where Acapulco is located.

The officers were patrolling the Puerto Marques area around 1 a.m. when they were ambushed by suspects shooting assault rifles from inside a car, police said.

Violence continues to escalate in the Pacific resort city, days after Mayor Jose Luis Avila Sanchez warned people to stay indoors after dark. Ten other people were killed between Sunday and Monday around the area. Authorities also were trying to determine whether a burned corpse found in a car was the body of a Canadian businessman who disappeared last week. Meanwhile, the remains of seven people were found Sunday in a mass grave



Suspect Manuel Mercado, right, walks handcuffed past packages of marijuana allegedly seized from him during his presentation to the press at the Baja California state police headquarters in Tijuana, Mexico, Monday Nov. 1, 2010. According to state police, 12,976 kilograms (28,606 pounds) of marijuana were seized in an operation early Monday.

Associated Press

in Nogales, on the Arizona border. Mayor Jose Angel Hernandez said a family walking near the site noticed what appeared to be part of a body sticking up in a riverbed. Officers recovered six bodies and a severed head in the grave. A seventh headless

body was found nearby.

In the border city of Tijuana, state police seized more than 14 tons (13 metric tons) of marijuana in two vehicles at a house in the same neighborhood where gunmen killed 13 people at a drug rehab center 10 days ago. □



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron talks with personnel, while visiting The Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood near London, Tuesday Oct. 19, 2010.

DAVID STRINGER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Europe's two nuclear-armed powers will strike a deal Tuesday to share warhead testing facilities as the leaders of Britain and France finalize plans for unprecedented cooperation on defense and security.

British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy will hold talks in London and pledge a new era of collaboration — seeking to bolster ties, but also spread the hefty costs of defense as their economies recover from the global financial crisis.

The continent's two largest

military powers will also announce the formation of a joint expeditionary force — a pool of about 5,000 troops able to deploy together at short notice on peacekeeping, rescue or combat missions.

Senior British officials said the two countries will also agree to some shared use of each other's aircraft carriers, meaning fighter jets from both countries will be able to land on vessels from either country — initially during training.

The two nations will cooperate on the development of new unmanned aerial drones, satellite communications and submarine technology. London and Paris are

Associated Press

United Kingdom, France to pool defense assets, share costs

also likely to strengthen intelligence sharing under the deal, officials said.

"Britain and France do share a real interest here," Cameron told lawmakers on Monday. "There are many areas where we can work together and enhance our capabilities — and save money at the same time."

Last month, Britain announced an 8 percent cut to the annual 37 billion pound (\$59 billion) defense budget over four years and confirmed 17,000 troops, a fleet of jets and an aging aircraft carrier would all be lost to cuts.

Under the nuclear warhead plan, Britain and France will save money by sharing equipment and facilities at the U.K. Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston in southern England, and the Valduc facility, close to Dijon, southeast of Paris.

The French laboratory will host British defense scientists to carry out tests on their country's nuclear warhead stockpile — soon to be cut to 120. In return, French officials

will be stationed at the U.K.'s facility to work on nuclear test technology.

Both nations are signatories to the U.N. nuclear test ban treaty, and so use laboratory tests on warhead components. Cost of building the French site, to be operative for several decades, will be shared equally.

Working so closely together "will create a climate of confidence" between teams while allowing both sides to retain "full sovereignty over their results," the French president's office said, calling the accord unprecedented.

British officials acknowledged the deal would involve closer than ever cooperation on their nuclear weapons program with the French, but insisted they would not divulge nuclear secrets.

Cameron told lawmakers the defense deal would not compromise the ability of either country to carry out military operations alone in the future. "Partnership, yes. But giving away sovereignty? No," Cameron told the House of Commons.

A combined pool of British and French troops will be able to carry out missions from next year, and will also conduct training exercises in 2011.

The pool is likely to include special forces.

"We are almost going back to the very close cooperation we had in the Cold War era," Gen. David Richards, head of Britain's armed forces, told BBC radio on Monday.

Though the countries worked closely in Bosnia and Kosovo, France opposed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and only rejoined the NATO command structure in 2009 after an absence of about 40 years.

Cameron told British lawmakers that the joint force was not intended as a stepping stone to a combined European military.

"To those who worry that this might in some way lead to sort of European armies — that is not the point. The point is to enhance sovereign capability by two like-minded countries being able to work together," he said. □

Iraqi Christians mourn after church siege kills 58

**BARBARA SURK
LARA JAKES**

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — After the gunmen killed the priest and nearly everyone in the first row, an eerie quiet descended over the pews. The only occasional sounds were sporadic gunfire, the muffled cries of the hostages and the shouts of Islamic militants — sometimes over their cell phones.

Suddenly the lights went out. Iraqi forces began entering the building, telling parishioners: “We will save you.”

Then a shattering blast shook the church as a suicide bomber set off his explosives.

By the time the siege of Our Lady of Salvation church was over Sunday night, 58 people were dead and 78 wounded — nearly everyone inside the building.

The attack, claimed by an al-Qaida-linked organization, was the deadliest recorded against Iraq’s Christians since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion unleashed a wave of violence against them.

The scope of the slaughter



Iraqi Christian lawmaker, Younadem Kana, center, is flanked by security guards as he arrives at Our Lady of Salvation church the morning after its congregation was taken hostage in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday Nov. 1, 2010. Iraqi security forces stormed a Baghdad church where militants had taken an entire congregation hostage for four hours, leaving dozens of people dead, including a priest, Iraqi officials said Monday.

only became clear on Monday after a long night of confusion and conflicting reports. Iraqi officials had initially provided a much lower death toll.

Pope Benedict XVI denounced the militants’

assault as “ferocious,” the White House condemned it as “senseless” and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said it harkened back to the days of sectarian warfare between Muslim sects.

Christians who cowered for hours inside the stone building that used to be their peaceful sanctuary wondered why they were yet again the target of violence.

“They are criminals and more than criminals. What type of man kills people at prayer? What have we done to receive this?” said Aida Jameel, a 65-year-old Christian woman who was shot in her leg.

The violence began around 5:30 Sunday evening in what a senior Iraqi security official said appeared to be a suicide mission.

The official described the attack as it unfolded based on a preliminary internal investigation by Iraqi authorities that depended, in part, on statements from survivors. His chilling account was verified by other Iraqi security officials at the scene, the U.S. military in Baghdad, and interviews of survivors who spoke to The Associated Press.

Shortly before sunset, the gunmen drove a black Jeep Cherokee to the church.

They blew it up, destroying their getaway car, and set off four small bombs in the neighborhood. In a brief shootout at the nearby Iraq stock exchange, the militants wounded two policemen.

Seven or eight militants then charged through the front doors of the church, interrupting the evening Mass service. They rushed down the aisle, brandishing their machine guns and spraying the room with bullets.

They ordered the priest to call the Vatican to demand the release of Muslim women who they claimed were being held captive by the Coptic church in Egypt. When the priest said he could not do that, the gunmen shot him and turned their guns on the congregation, killing most of those in the front pew.

One woman told investigators she survived only because her father wrapped himself around her body in a shield that ultimately killed him.

During the next three hours, Iraqi military officials tried to negotiate with the insurgents who refused to back off their demands. The gunmen also called reporters from the Egypt-based satellite TV al-Baghdadiya channel. The channel’s Baghdad office went off the air Monday in a

dispute with Iraqi authorities about their role in the incident. “I only heard people weeping, probably because they were hurt and in pain,” said Rauf Naamat, one of the worshippers. “Most people were too afraid to produce a sound. They feared militants would kill them, if they heard them.”

More than three hours into the attack, Iraqi security forces turned off the lights. Naamat said he could hear a voice telling parishioners: “We are Iraqi forces. Stand up and keep quiet. We will save you.” He said he saw a militant approach the security forces as they made their way to the altar. The man then detonated his explosives best, unleashing a massive blast.

There were conflicting accounts of anywhere from one to seven gunmen blowing themselves up. According to two security officials, most of the deaths took place in the basement where a gunman killed about 30 hostages when Iraqi forces began to enter the church.

One official said the gunman set off an explosives vest he was wearing, but the other said the gunman threw two grenades at his hostages.

Younadem Kana, a Christian member of the Iraqi parliament, condemned the rescue operation as “hasty” and “not professional.”

But U.S. and Iraqi officials said they had to act because they heard gunshots from inside the church and knew the militants were shooting hostages.

It was not possible to confirm or contradict this account from the accounts of survivors. One witness said there was sporadic gunfire during the siege.

Iraqi special forces stormed the church “to prevent the further loss of innocent lives,” said Lt. Col. Terry L. Conder, a spokesman for U.S. special forces. He said the Iraqi commando teams rescued 70 hostages.

Authorities worked through the night to remove the bodies. All that was left of the Jeep outside was a pile of mangled metal. □

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U.N. leader Ban meets with Chinese President Hu

BEIJING (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asked China to play a greater role in solving African crises during a meeting with the president, but did not discuss the country's human rights record or the imprisonment of Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo.

Ban met Monday with President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing, one day after attending a summit in Shanghai with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and other leaders.

"Since taking office, you have done a great deal of effective work to promote the work of the United Nations, improve the U.N.'s work, improve

international cooperation, promote world peace and stability," Hu told Ban.

Rights advocates have urged Ban to join other world leaders in publicly expressing concern over Liu's imprisonment, as well as the treatment of his wife, Liu Xia, who has been under house arrest since the award was announced last month.

Liu Xiaobo, a 54-year-old literary critic, is serving an 11-year sentence for subversion imposed in December after he co-authored a bold appeal known as Charter 08 calling for reforms to the country's single-party communist political system.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, spokesman Martin

Nesirky told reporters that human rights did not come up in Ban's meeting with Hu because there were many other issues to discuss. Nesirky added that the world body's previous statement on Liu — which did not call for his release but said Ban has long advocated for improvement on human rights — still stands.

Philippe Boloignon, U.N. advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, accused Ban of failing "in one of his most basic duties, which is to be a clear voice on human rights." The secretary-general's repeated refusal to call for Liu's release is "inconsistent" with his frequent calls for the release of Myanmar's detained pro-democracy leader Aung



U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, is greeted by China's President Hu Jintao during their meeting in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

Canada agrees to repatriate Guantanamo convict

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada said Monday it will allow a Canadian who is the last Western detainee at Guantanamo Bay to return to his homeland next year to serve out his sentence.

Omar Khadr was sentenced Sunday to eight years for war crimes that included the killing of a U.S. soldier.

The sentence requires that he spend one more year at Guantanamo before he can ask the Canadian government to allow him to return to Canada to serve the remainder of his sentence or to seek early release on parole.

"The American government agreed for Omar Khadr to return to Canada. We will implement the agreement between Omar Khadr and the U.S. government," Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said.

Khadr, 24, could be free almost as soon as he is repatriated. Canada has more lenient sentencing guidelines than the U.S. Khadr was 15 when he was captured in Afghanistan in 2002.

The son of an alleged al-Qaida financier, Khadr admitted planting 10 roadside bombs



in Afghanistan as part of an al-Qaida cell and throwing a grenade that mortally wounded an American special forces medic, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Defense attorneys say Omar Khadr was pushed into war by his family, who stayed with Osama bin Laden briefly when Omar Khadr was a boy. The Egyptian-born father was killed in 2003 when a Pakistani military helicopter shelled the house where he was staying with senior al-

Qaida operatives.

Navy Capt. John F. Murphy, the chief military prosecutor, said the U.S. government considered Khadr's age and background as the child of a prominent al-Qaida figure in agreeing to the eight-year sentence.

Khadr's lawyers and human rights groups had argued he was a "child soldier" who should have been sent home long ago for rehabilitation, and they challenged the notion that a battlefield killing amounted to a war crime. □

San Suu Kyi, another Nobel Peace Prize winner, he said.

"This looks like a misguided attempt to secure Chinese support for his re-election and overlooks the fact that the world needs a courageous and outspoken secretary-general," Boloignon told AP in New York. "The fact that his office doesn't even claim that human rights issues were raised in private is particularly shocking, especially coming from a secretary-general who often defends his timid public statements by tough talk behind the scenes."

Ban's five-year term ends on Dec. 31, 2011 and there is widespread speculation that he will seek a second term.

According to the U.N., Ban and Hu "discussed a wide range of issues, including climate change, the Millennium Development Goals, the Korean Peninsula

and Africa." Nesirky said Ban specifically mentioned that China could play a greater role in the conflicts in Somalia and Sudan.

China has built strong economic ties in Africa in recent years, though many have criticized its role on the continent, suggesting Beijing is too eager to ignore abuses committed by the regimes it does business with.

No news conference is planned during Ban's visit and he appears unlikely to raise Liu's case in keeping with his low-key style and China's immense influence in the U.N. as one of five veto-wielding permanent members of the Security Council.

Ban's public comments in China have been limited thus far to praise for the country's staging of the just-concluded World Expo and calls for more sustainable development. □

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Oregon, Auburn swap spots atop BCS standings

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer
NEW YORK – Oregon and Auburn swapped spots atop the BCS standings and Boise State was passed again, this time by TCU.

The Ducks (8-0) moved into first place for the first time this season, which is interesting but not necessarily important. Auburn (9-0) grabbed the top spot last week, but Oregon caught up after beating Southern California 53-32, leaving the Tigers in second place. The top two teams in the final BCS standings on Dec. 5 play in the championship game Jan. 10 in Glendale, Ariz. Right now, the Ducks and Tigers are in control of the title race. "They're fighting over what color uniform to wear



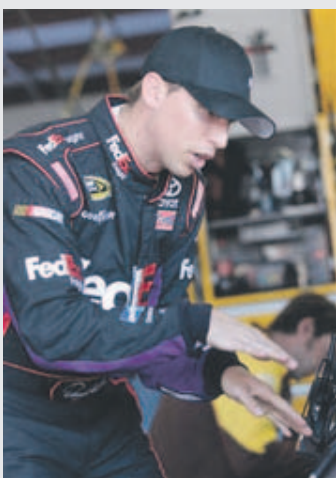
Oregon quarterback Darron Thomas gestures toward his bench after they scored a touchdown during the second half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010, in Los Angeles. Oregon won 53-32.

Associated Press

in the championship game," BCS analyst Jerry Palm said.

Continued on Page B4

Hamlin avoids Talladega disaster



NASCAR driver Denny Hamlin talks with Kevin Harvick who sits in his car during practice in preparation for Sunday's running of the AMP Energy Juice 500 auto race at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala. Friday, Oct. 29, 2010.

Associated Press

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Denny Hamlin wanted only to leave Talladega Superspeedway with Jimmie Johnson still in his sights in the tense race for the NASCAR championship. Mission accomplished after a furious final push Sunday gave Hamlin a ninth-place finish — just two spots behind the four-time defending series champion — and left him just 14 points out of the lead with three races remaining in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

All in all it was a pretty solid result.

Yet the driver seemed disheartened as he dissected his day at the one track that posed the most risk in this thrilling three-man race for the title. "It wasn't very fun," he lamented.

Continued on Page B8

Madison's avenue

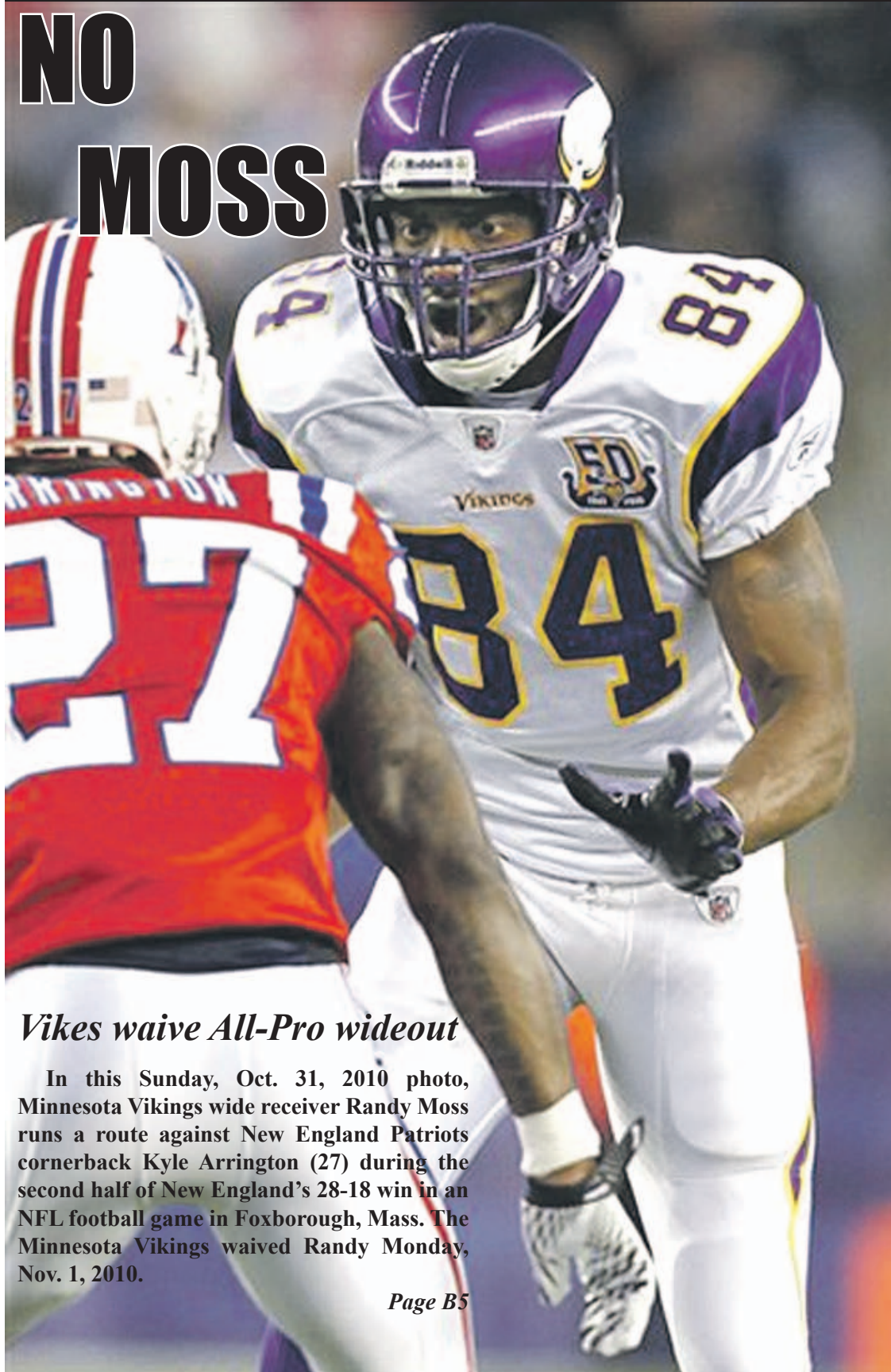
GIANTS LEAD SERIES 3-1

San Francisco Giants' Madison Bumgarner throws during the first inning of Game 4 of baseball's World Series against the Texas Rangers Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010, in Arlington, Texas.

*Associated Press
Page B3*



NO MOSS



Vikes waive All-Pro wideout

In this Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010 photo, Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Randy Moss runs a route against New England Patriots cornerback Kyle Arrington (27) during the second half of New England's 28-18 win in an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass. The Minnesota Vikings waived Randy Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

Page B5

Tiger Woods not surprised by drop in rankings



Tiger Woods of the U.S., speaks along with Ryo Ishikawa of Japan during a press conference after their 9-hole golf match, at Yokohama Country Course near Tokyo, Japan, Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Tiger Woods says it was no surprise to lose golf's No. 1 ranking to England's Lee Westwood after struggling

through a disappointing year. Westwood assumed the top ranking Sunday to end a record run by Woods, who had been the world's No. 1 golfer

for 281 weeks.

"As far as the world ranking is concerned, yes, I'm not ranked No. 1 in the world," Woods said Monday. "In order to do that you have to win and I didn't win this year."

Woods played an exhibition at Yokohama Country Club on Monday against Japanese teenager Ryo Ishikawa. He was on the way to the HSBC Championship in Shanghai which starts Thursday at Sheshan International.

Woods had been No. 1 since the week before the 2005 U.S. Open, where he was runner-up. He won the British Open a month later and his ranking was rarely threatened since.

That changed this year when Woods struggled through his worst season on and off the course. He took a five-month

break from golf to cope with confessions of extramarital affairs, which ultimately led to divorce, and his game has not been the same.

Woods said he was doing his best to adjust to no longer being No. 1.

"As far as the emotions go, it is what it is," Woods said. "To become No. 1 you have to win and win a lot to maintain it. That's the way it goes."

Westwood is followed in the rankings by Woods, PGA champion Martin Kaymer, Phil Mickelson and Steve Stricker.

With three more events this year, Woods said he was hopeful of turning things around.

"I've got three more events this year and, hopefully, I can end on a good note," Woods

said. "I'm really looking forward to these events and hopefully they will spearhead into a better 2011."

Westwood took the top ranking after PGA champion Kaymer failed to finish among the top two at the Andalucia Masters in Spain. He is the first European since Nick Faldo in 1994 to be No. 1, and the 13th player to be No. 1 since the ranking system began in 1986. The Englishman's reign could be short lived.

The HSBC Champions has assembled such a strong field that Westwood, Woods, Kaymer or Mickelson could all be No. 1 by the end of the week.

The tournament starts Thursday at Sheshan International where Mickelson is defending champion. □



Switzerland's Roger Federer during his first round match against Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov at the Davidoff Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland, Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Top-seeded Roger Federer needed less than an hour to get past Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-4, 5-2 on Monday and reach the second round of his hometown tournament in Basel.

Federer was serving for the match when his Ukrainian

Federer begins Basel bid with easy victory

opponent fell and hurt his ankle. Dolgoplov received attention from two trainers but decided he was unable to see out the match, handing Federer the win after 48 minutes.

Federer, who will meet Serb Janko Tipsarevic or Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan in the second round, won the tournament for three straight years before he was beaten by Novak Djokovic in last year's final.

Djokovic is seeded No. 2 and will begin the defense of his title against Ernests Gulbis of Latvia on Tuesday.

John Isner of the United States fought back from a set down to defeat Frenchman Michael Llodra 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Eighth-seeded Isner hit 20 aces to win in one hour, 45 minutes.

Also Monday, qualifier Robin Haase from the Netherlands beat Swiss wild card Stephane Bohli 6-4, 6-3. □

Former NBA star Maurice Lucas dead at 58



This Jan. 12, 1979 file photo shows Portland Trail Blazers' Maurice Lucas driving hard past Boston Celtics' Marvin Barnes (27) and Chris Ford on his way for two points in second period NBA action at the Boston Garden.

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Maurice Lucas, the fierce power forward who helped lead the Portland Trail Blazers to the 1977 NBA title, has died after a long fight with bladder cancer. He was 58.

The Trail Blazers said Lucas died Sunday.

Lucas, whose No. 20 was retired by the Blazers in 1988, joined Portland in the 1976 and led the 1976-77 championship team in scoring with a 20.2 average. He also averaged 11.2 rebounds that season.

He averaged 14.4 points and 8.8 rebounds in 12 NBA seasons with Portland, New Jersey, New York, Phoenix, the Los Angeles Lakers and Seattle. He also served as an assistant coach with the Blazers.

He was a five-time All-Star.

Lucas led Marquette to the 1974 U.S. college NCAA title game against North Carolina State and was selected to the All-Final Four team.

Marquette also retired his No. 20 and inducted him into its Hall of Fame, and Walton named his son Luke, a player for the Lakers, after him.

Lucas is survived by wife Pamela, sons David and Maurice II and daughter Kristin. □

Landis prominent in New Zealand tour

INVERCARGILL, New Zealand (AP) — Disgraced cyclist Floyd Landis has finished fourth after the second stage of New Zealand's Tour of Southland to sit fourth on general classification after the first day of the six-day race.

Landis' Orca Velo Merino team finished well back in the tour-opening 8.42-kilometer (5.3-mile) teams' time trial, but the American was more at home in the afternoon's hilly 81.6-kilometer (51-mile) second stage Monday.

He raced prominently on the leg between Invercargill — New Zealand's southernmost city — and the port of Bluff, finishing 1 minute, 2 seconds behind stage winner Jeremy Yates of New Zealand. □



Orca Velo Merino's Floyd Landis of the U.S. crosses the finish line in the team time trial, stage 1 of the PowerNet Tour of Southland.

Associated Press



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Bumgarner pitches Giants to brink of Series crown

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Madison Bumgarner allowed three hits over eight innings, and Aubrey Huff and Buster Posey homered as San Francisco beat the Texas Rangers 4-0 on Sunday to move within one win of the Giants' first World Series title since 1954.

Bumgarner, San Francisco's 21-year-old No. 4 starter, didn't allow a runner past second base as the Giants took a 3-1 lead in the best of seven series.

"I can't say enough about what he did," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

The 21-year-old Bumgarner and closer Brian Wilson helped the Giants become the first team to post two shutouts in a World Series since Baltimore threw three straight to close out the Dodgers in 1966.

"It's certainly been pitching as advertised," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "They've got good stuff. They've got velocity. They can spin the baseball. They can change speeds and they keep their defense engaged." Huff's two-run homer in the third inning gave Bumgarner all the support he needed. Posey added a solo shot in the eighth — Bumgarner and Posey became the first rookie pair to start in the World Series since Spec Shea and Yogi Berra for the Yankees in 1947.

Ace Tim Lincecum will try Monday to deliver the Giants' first championship since they moved to San Francisco in 1958. Now it's up to Cliff Lee to save the Rangers' season in

Game 5.

"With a win, I usually sleep pretty good in the playoffs, with a loss pretty shaky. Hopefully we sleep good tonight. We've got a big challenge tomorrow with Cliff Lee," Huff said. "We got him last game, but you know he's going to come out and really want to get us."

Even though Bumgarner got relief help, it was a complete game for the Giants. Andres Torres doubled twice, singled and drove in a run and Edgar Renteria also got three hits.

Left fielder Cody Ross came up with a shoestring catch, second baseman Freddy Sanchez made a leaping grab and Posey threw out Josh Hamilton trying to steal. Bumgarner helped himself, too, knocking down Hamilton's scorcher up the middle.

Coming off a 4-2 win Saturday night, the Rangers and their fans were ready to level this Series. Earlier in the day at nearby Cowboys Stadium, two little boys held up signs at the Cowboys NFL game that read: "Hurry Up Cowboys ... I Have a Rangers Game to go to."

The father-and-son team of George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush threw out the ceremonial first ball in what

Major League Baseball said was the first time two former presidents attended a World Series game.

Bumgarner didn't permit a runner past first base until the seventh. Facing his only jam, he retired Ian Kinsler on a fly ball to strand two runners and preserve a 3-0 lead.

Bumgarner struck out Vladimir Guerrero three times, the first time the star Texas designated hitter had done that this season.

The Giants' fourth starter, Bumgarner went 7-6 in 18 starts this season. He began this game with a four-pitch walk to Elvis Andrus and ran into little trouble after that. He struck six, walked two and improved to 2-0 in three postseason starts.

"I try to tell myself all the time just to relax and take deep breaths, control the breathing. It helps me relax and stay calm and act like it's not a big deal. Obviously it is, it's the World Series. Just tried to go out there and relax, and it's worked out," he said.

Wilson closed with a hitless ninth. The Giants tweaked their lineup, benching Pat Burrell and making Huff the designated hitter for the first time this season. Bochy put Nate Schierholtz in right field and Travis Ishikawa at first



San Francisco Giants' Aubrey Huff, right, is congratulated by teammate Andres Torres after hitting a two run home run during the third inning of Game 4 of baseball's World Series against the Texas Rangers Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

base — fine fielders, not great hitters. That's more the NL way, where spare bats rarely grow on the bench.

Washington came off his bench twice to discuss calls with first base umpire Jeff Kellogg. Replays seemed to show both were misses that went against the Rangers.

Thwarted early, the Giants took a 2-0 lead in the third on Huff's homer. Torres led off with a grounder that hit the first-base bag, kicked up and rolled into the corner for a double. Sanchez failed to advance him and was still

shouting at himself down in the dugout tunnel when Huff hit a long drive to right.

Huff homered on the 62nd pitch overall from Hunter, who tossed strikes but couldn't throw the ball past anyone. Alexi Ogando began warming up in the Texas bullpen in the third and replaced Hunter in the fifth.

Ogando set down five straight batters, then bounced a breaking ball to the sixth and immediately grabbed his left side. A trainer went to the mound, Ogando came out and Darren Oliver relieved. □

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BCS RANKINGS**Continued from Page B1**

Oregon is No. 1 in the two polls used in the standings and No. 2 according to the computer ratings. Auburn is first according to the computers and No. 2 among the voters of the Harris and coaches polls.

The other three unbeaten teams, TCU (9-0), Boise State (7-0) and Utah (8-0), are next in the standings, but they'll need Oregon or Auburn to lose to even have a shot at playing for the national championship. Boise State had been No. 3 for two weeks, but as the Broncos beat up on the soft part of their schedule, others are catching

up — as expected. TCU jumped from fourth to third. Utah, which plays TCU on Saturday, is fifth. Alabama is the highest rated one-loss team in sixth. With a game against rival Auburn to end the regular season and a possible Southeastern Conference title game, the defending national champion Crimson Tide (7-1) are definitely alive to repeat. What are the chances the Tide returns to the national title game if it wins out?

"I don't think it's a slam dunk," Palm said. "If forced to make a prediction now, I'd guess Alabama would go over undefeated Boise State or TCU, but I'm not operating



Auburn quarterback Cam Newton (2) celebrates with fans following their 51-31 win over Mississippi in their NCAA college football game in Oxford, Miss., Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010.

Associated Press

Kelly Pavlik pulls out of Nov. 13 fight



In this April 14, 2010, photo, Kelly Pavlik attends a news conference in New York. Former middleweight champion Pavlik withdrew Monday, Nov. 1, 2010, from his bout on the undercard of Manny Pacquiao's meeting with Antonio Margarito on Nov. 13, citing a rib injury.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS—Former middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik withdrew Monday from his bout on the undercard of Manny Pacquiao's meeting with Antonio Margarito on Nov. 13, citing a rib injury.

Top Rank president Todd DuBoef confirmed Pavlik's latest withdrawal from a high-profile showcase.

The promoters plan to move lightweight contender Brandon Rios onto the card at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Pavlik (36-2, 32 KOs) was scheduled to meet Brian Vera in the top undercard bout of the HBO pay-per-view show featuring Pacquiao's attempt to win a title in his eighth weight class against Margarito, the former welterweight champion.

The cancellation is another setback for Pavlik, who lost his WBC and WBO 160-pound titles to Argentina's Sergio Martinez in April. The

unanimous decision was his second defeat in four fights, following a one-sided loss to Bernard Hopkins in 2008 and two wins over fringe contenders.

The Youngstown, Ohio, native postponed two title defenses against Paul Williams last year with a staph infection in his hand. Beyond his health problems, Pavlik also has angrily denied widespread rumors he has been waylaid by family squabbles and excessive drinking.

Rios (25-0-1, 18 KOs) was slated to fight on the undercard of Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.'s next fight in Anaheim, Calif., on Dec. 4. The Texas-born fighter beat undefeated contender Anthony Peterson by disqualification for repeated low blows in his last fight in September.

Rios trains with Robert Garcia, who also trains Margarito, in Oxnard, Calif.

Top Rank hasn't yet selected an opponent for Rios. □

under the assumption that would happen."

Voters are giving more support than ever before to Boise State and TCU, and both are benefiting from some good non-conference victories that help their computer ratings. Those two factors could keep 'Bama at bay, Palm said.

Still, the Broncos, Horned Frogs and Utes better watch their backs while they're keeping an eye on each other. Boise State beat Louisiana Tech 49-20 on Tuesday. Utah beat Air Force 28-23, and TCU easily handled UNLV 48-6 on Saturday.

Those results didn't necessarily swing things toward the Horned Frogs as much as Oregon and Auburn's performances did.

After both won convincingly on the road, the Ducks and Tigers gained support in the polls and Boise State slid from second to third. The Broncos' computer rating still lags behind in seventh.

Meanwhile, TCU's No. 4 ranking in each poll, plus a third-place rating in the computers, added up to the Horned Frogs moving up.

The Broncos, Horned Frogs and Utes are all trying to become the first team from a non-automatic qualifying conference to reach the BCS title game.

TCU at Utah will likely eliminate one of those Mountain West Conference teams from BCS contention all together.

Boise State's toughest tests the rest of the way in the Western Athletic Conference should come from No. 25

Nevada (7-1), Hawaii (7-2) and Fresno State (5-2). One loss would finish the Broncos' BCS hopes.

The real race between the non-automatic qualifiers might be for that so-called BCS Buster bid — just like last season.

One, and only one, of those teams can grab an automatic BCS bid by finishing in the top 12 in the final BCS standings. Last year, TCU was highest rated and earned an automatic bid, but Boise State became the first team from a league without automatic entry to receive an at-large berth to one of the five big-money bowl games.

The Broncos and Horned Frogs were matched up in the Fiesta Bowl and Boise State won the battle of unbeaten teams in Arizona.

A similar scenario could play out this season with the winner of TCU-Utah or Boise State getting an automatic BCS bid and the other hoping to receive an at-large invite. But that invite is far from a guarantee when big-name teams such as Wisconsin, Ohio State, Nebraska and Oklahoma could also be available to bowl organizers.

"I'm not optimistic we'll see two non-majors this year," Palm said.

The other twist this season is the automatic bid would be a spot in the Rose Bowl if Oregon wins the Pac-10 and plays for the national championship.

The Rose Bowl is committed this season to taking the BCS Buster if it losses either the Pac-10 or Big Ten champs to the title game. □

Randy Moss let go by Vikings

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Randy Moss's reunion with the Minnesota Vikings lasted 25 days — and three disappointing losses.

Vikings players confirmed Monday that coach Brad Childress informed them during a team meeting that Moss had been let go, a few minutes after the NFL Network first reported the Vikings had waived the frustrated wide receiver less than a month after acquiring him in a trade with New England.

Childress and team officials didn't immediately respond to messages seeking confirmation of the decision. About an hour before the news came out, Childress took 12 consecutive questions from reporters during his regular news conference about Moss, his effort, and his mindset in response to a rant by Moss following Sunday night's loss to the Patriots.

Moss, who was fined \$25,000 last week for failing to cooperate with the media and make himself regularly available for interviews, stepped to the podium after the game but announced he wouldn't take any questions. He repeatedly expressed admiration for coach Bill Belichick and his former team, the Patriots, and criticized the Vikings for not taking enough of his game-planning advice.

Moss, who cost the Vikings a third-round draft pick, had only one catch for 8 yards against the Patriots. In four games for the Vikings, he had 13 catches for 174 yards and two touchdowns.

Childress didn't mention the move and said Moss was staying back in the Boston area for a few days to spend time with family. Asked whether he regretted acquiring Moss, the coach said "not at present."

Moss, who was traded away from Minnesota in 2005 after finding his share of trouble and frustrating the organization with his attitude, expressed eagerness to connect with quarterback Brett Favre when he arrived and talked about how much he still loved Vikings fans some 5½ years after his departure.

While his presence opened the field for wide receiver Percy Harvin, who has blossomed into one of the league's most dangerous offensive players, Moss never materialized into the deep threat the Vikings sought when they traded for him. His longest catch was a 37-yarder, and he was only targeted twice against the Patriots.

"I'm definitely down that we lost this game. I didn't expect we'd lose this game," Moss said. "I don't know how many more times I'll be in New England again. But I leave coach Belichick and those guys with a salute: 'I love you guys. I miss you. I'm out.'"

Childress said Monday he didn't see Moss's remarks



Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Randy Moss waves to the fans after his former team, the New England Patriots, defeated the Vikings 28-18 in an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010.

Associated Press

as "incendiary." The closest he came to criticizing him was acknowledging he could've caught a pass that fell incomplete in the end zone while the Patriots were called for pass interference.

"But again, I don't know," Childress said. "He was restricted. If they called pass interference, there had to be some kind of restriction."

Asked whether he felt Moss had been playing hard, Childress said, "He's playing hard when he needs to play hard."

Linebacker Ben Leber said players were surprised by the news. But he didn't sound happy about Moss's post-game remarks.

"It was just, 'Wow,'" Leber said. "Just because it sounded like it was unprompted and sounded like he wanted to get some stuff off his chest. He certainly has every right to do that. I don't think that's the way to do it." □

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NBA Roundup

Heat end Nets' unbeaten start with easy victory



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6), fights off New Jersey Nets' Terrence Williams, left, and Derrick Favors, right, in the third quarter during an NBA basketball game at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010. The Heat defeated the Nets 101-78.

Associated Press

Miami's dominant first half before sitting out the fourth quarter. James played a little of the final period and added seven rebounds and seven assists.

It was the most impressive offensive performance yet for the Heat, who have won three straight since beginning their new era with a loss in Boston on opening night. Miami shot 68 percent in the first half, when its Big Three combined for 41 points — one fewer than New Jersey — and the stats only lowered when the reserves took over toward the end.

Mavericks 99, Clippers 83

At Los Angeles, Jason Kidd ended the first half with a 65-foot shot-put heave from inside the 3-point arc at the opposite end, and Caron Butler scored 17 points and Shawn Marion had 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter as Dallas beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Dirk Nowitzki added 16 points and seven rebounds for the defending Southwest Division champions in their first road game of the season. Kidd finished with 13 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Rookie Blake Griffin had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Clippers, who fell to 0-3 on the season under new coach Vinny Del Negro. None of the starters reached double

digits until Griffin converted a slam dunk with 5:32 left in the third quarter.

Jazz 120, Thunder 99

At Oklahoma City, Paul Millsap had 30 points and 16 rebounds, and Deron Williams added 16 points and 15 assists as Utah beat Oklahoma to avoid matching its worst start in 31 years.

Al Jefferson notched his first double-double since joining the Jazz in an offseason trading, putting up 23 points and 10 rebounds.

The Jazz haven't started 0-3 since the 1979-80 season, the franchise's first in Utah.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 28 points and Russell Westbrook scored 22.

Lakers 107, Warriors 83

At Los Angeles, Pau Gasol had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant added 20 points as the Los Angeles Lakers kept up their unbeaten start with a win over Golden State.

Lamar Odom had 16 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers, who easily improved to 3-0 with their 10th consecutive win over their upstate rivals.

Monta Ellis scored 20 points for the Warriors, whose first loss ended their first 2-0 start in 16 years.

Golden State played without guard Stephen Curry, who aggravated his sprained right ankle Friday.



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WTA says it is bullish on growth in China

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The WTA is counting on the Asia-Pacific region to boost its international growth, and putting great hope in China's ability to produce more elite players, its chairman and CEO said Sunday.

Bolstered by a new sponsorship deal with Chinese sporting goods firm Peak, Stacey Allaster on Sunday called the country "an important strategic growth project for us."

Allaster praised organizers of the China Open and said the tournament facilities in Beijing were outstanding and would only get better with the addition of a 15,000-seat, retractable roof stadium next year.

"It is absolutely amazing what the Beijing government and the China Open are doing for our sport," Allaster said at the WTA Championships in Doha. "They are incredibly ambitious. They have made women's tennis a priority sport, and that is just simply fantastic for the WTA."

But Allaster acknowledged there was "plenty of education" to do to get more

Chinese people excited about tennis, including such basics as how to score a match. To help with that, the WTA has opened an office and plans to travel around the country with the Chinese Tennis Association to introduce the game.

"We have taken a play right out of (commissioner) David Stern's playbook from the NBA. We need to excite kids about our sport," she said. "We need to get rackets in their hands and show them our sport is fun through tennis festivals throughout the country. That's created an opportunity for our brand, and also assets for our partners."

China's 1.3 billion potential fans offer a vast untapped market for the WTA and other sports federations. The WTA points out there are 130 million Chinese interested in tennis and 10 million recreational players — twice the number of those in France, an established market.

Chinese players such as Li Na and Zheng Jie have had great success lately, but tennis is still a relatively new sport in the country. It's still seen as a sport played by the upper class and even audiences at tournaments sometimes are at



China's Li Na serves a ball against Angelique Kerber of Germany during their women's singles in the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010. Li defeated Kerber 6-2, 6-0.

Associated Press

a loss as to how they should respond. During the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, local fans breached tennis etiquette by cheering during long rallies and sighing loudly over faults. Allaster, meanwhile, said that the tour is thriving even amid a tough economic climate. Along with Peak, the tour re-

signed Sony Ericsson — a long-running sponsor— this year and added the Swedish-based cosmetics company Oriflame. It expects to announce another sponsor in the coming weeks and possibly as many as two more in the future — all of which Allaster said indicates the tour

is flourishing even in tough economic times, Allaster said. "We are strong. We've had the best commercial year in our history," Allaster said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We've had three new partners, held our own in attendance and added three new events." □



In this July 3, 2010 file photo, International Cycling Union President Pat McQuaid gives a brief statement prior to the start of the prologue of the Tour de France cycling race in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Associated Press

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — International cycling federation president Pat McQuaid favors four-year bans for serious doping offenses to help clean up a sport battered by drug scandals.

In an interview Monday with The Associated Press, McQuaid said standard two-year suspensions are not tough enough to deter cheaters and should be doubled in cases of premeditated doping.

On a separate issue, McQuaid said the UCI is not "dragging its heels" in the investigation

UCI President McQuaid wants 4-year doping bans

of three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador, who remains provisionally suspended after testing positive for clenbuterol while winning this year's race.

"I'm increasingly going for four years because two years is very quick," McQuaid said of doping bans. "An athlete returns to the peleton very quick. I think it's unfair to the clean athletes that guys who have cheated in premeditated cheating can come back so quickly." Under World Anti-Doping Agency guidelines, suspensions of at least two years should be applied for serious doping offenses. While WADA allows for sanctions of up to four years, few sports

impose the longer penalties. McQuaid said he has instructed the UCI's anti-doping department to seek four-year penalties and urged national federations to do the same.

"At least cycling has made the statement that we're serious about getting rid of dopers," he said on the sidelines of the Global Sports Industry Conference in London.

Despite the Contador case and a slew of other doping scandals that have marred the Tour de France and the sport in general, McQuaid said cycling is doing more than others to fight the scourge of cheating.

"You can take a sort of

fatalistic view and say, 'Yes the sport's been damaged, the credibility of the sport has gone down,'" he said. "But you can also take the view that more and more people are taking — that we're a sport that is actually going and doing something about it."

"We're testing. We're testing in great detail, in great numbers, and we're catching athletes. We're not afraid to catch an athlete, big or small. It's transparent. It's open. All the results come to us and go to WADA. We're doing our damndest to catch cheats."

McQuaid defended the UCI's handling of the Contador case, which dates back to a drug test during the Tour on July 21. □



Rod Spittle poses with the champions trophy after the final round of the AT&T Championship at Oak Hills Country Club on October 31, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas.

(Photo by Darren Carroll/Getty Images)

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Monday qualifier Rod Spittle won the AT&T Championship on Sunday for his first Champions Tour victory, beating Jeff Sluman with a par on the first hole of a playoff. Spittle, a 55-year-old Canadian, and Sluman closed with 4-under 67s to finish at 12 under on the Oak Hills Country Club course. Spittle earned \$262,500. Spittle birdied the 15th, 16th and 17th holes, hitting a

wedge shot to 2 feet on the 17th, and parred the 18th, while Sluman birdied 15 and 16 and finished with two pars. Sluman bogeyed the playoff hole — the par-3 18th — when he hit his tee shot into the front bunker. Spittle won with a 4-foot par putt. “Not to sound corny, but to say this is a dream come true literally is the case,” said Spittle, the former Ohio State player who sold insurance

Spittle beats Sluman in Champions Tour playoff

until turning pro six years ago. “These are great players out here, and to come and tip-toe in that company is truly amazing.”

He’s the 11th player to win on the Champions Tour after qualifying Monday and the first since Pete Oakley won the Senior British Open six years ago.

Two-time Oak Hills winner John Cook (68), second-round leader Larry Nelson (70) and Chien Soon Lu (69) tied for third at 11 under. Nelson, the 63-year-old Hall of Famer who was looking for his first win in six years, fell out of the lead with a double bogey and bogey on consecutive front-nine holes.

Cook missed an 8-foot birdie putt on the final hole. Cook, Spittle’s teammate at Ohio State, led by two strokes after

he birdied No. 8, but he had bogeys on 11 and 13.

Corey Pavin (66), Steve Haskins (67) and Jay Don Blake (70) tied for sixth at 10 under, and Charles Schwab Cup points leader Bernhard Langer (69) was another stroke back along with Jay Haas (67).

Spittle’s playoff par was set up by a chip with an awkward stance when he had to stand on the lip of a bunker behind the green. Once on the green, after moving the coin to mark his ball to get clear of Sluman’s par putt, he had to be reminded by several people surrounding the green — including Sluman — to move the mark back before replacing his ball on the green. He would have lost the playoff if he putted before returning

the ball to its spot, which he admitted he almost did. “It sounded like the posse was coming to get me,” he said.

“Fortunately it didn’t end on a terrible note like that,” Sluman said. “It would have been awful.”

The tournament was the final full-field event of the year. The top 30 on the money list earned spots next week in the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship at Harding Park in San Francisco.

Next year, the AT&T Championship will move from A.W. Tillinghast-designed Oak Hills to a TPC course across town designed by Pete Dye. Oak Hills, opened in 1922, was the tournament site since 2002 and was the site of the PGA Tour’s Texas Open for 24 years until 1995. □

MOTOR SPORTS

Continued from Page B1

No, it wasn’t. But considering it could have been a disastrous day — bad enough to end his championship chances on the spot — he should have been ecstatic.

See, Hamlin gambled and went with the popular practice of racing at the back of the pack in an effort to avoid any unnecessary danger. The strategy has worked wonders at Daytona and Talladega over the years, where drivers take a lazy Sunday drive before turning on the jets for a final mad dash to the finish.

Because of his precarious points position — Hamlin started the day just six behind Johnson — he couldn’t risk a catastrophic crash and had to play it safe early in the race. The plan backfired when a round of green-flag pit stops caused Hamlin to fall too far back from the pack. He was out of the draft, and dropping like a rock with zero power to stop his slide.

Hamlin was 15 seconds behind the leaders. Then 20. Then 30. Then nearly 40 and his rearview mirror showing the field hurtling toward him.

Strategies were discussed, including Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch’s offer to drop back and rescue Hamlin, but the team decided against the move. Michael Waltrip, a fellow Toyota driver, had a brief window to go get Hamlin, but that too didn’t materialize.

“In a way, you’re kind of thinking ‘Well, we’ll get the draft back,’” team president J.D. Gibbs said. “And then when we kind of realized, ‘You aren’t getting it,’ it was almost too late to send those guys back, because then they could go a lap down, too.”

Hamlin did fall a lap down, and the only help he could get was a promise from fellow Toyota driver David Reutimann to make a hole for Hamlin to slide into as the pack closed in on his stranded car. It worked, Hamlin fell into line, then had to ride around and hope cautions fell his way and he could get back on the lead lap. When he did, it was game on. He hooked up with Busch and sliced his way through traffic, even leading four laps. But time at the front can be short-lived at Talladega, and when Johnson crew chief Chad

Knaus told his driver to get moving with 15 laps to go, Johnson and teammate Jeff Gordon barreled to the lead.

Hamlin and Busch got shuffled back into traffic, and were stuck in the pack when caution was called for debris with eight laps to go. Hamlin was listed in 18th on the restart with four laps remaining, and had to furiously slide his way through traffic to save his finish.

He had Johnson passed and Mark Martin on his bumper when Martin, one of Johnson’s teammates at Hendrick Motorsports, suddenly stopped pushing. It gave Johnson the chance to pass him back right before the race-ending caution froze the field.

“I didn’t get to race as hard as I would like to at times, and thought I was in a good position there. I was actually in a great position with two to go,” Hamlin said. “I had (Martin) pushing me, but as soon as we passed (Johnson), he stopped pushing. That’s teamwork. That’s what I would expect of a teammate. “We were in a bad spot. We weren’t around our teammates



when it counted right there at the end.”

So Hamlin left Alabama with a laundry list of things that could have been done differently.

But when it was all said and done, he came out of it in good shape and that’s all he ever wanted in the first place. “I asked for nobody to really get killed here (in the standings) and to let us settle it on the race track where our cars and our teams can make a

difference and us drivers can make a difference,” he said. “That’s what we got.”

Indeed, he now moves to Texas, where he won in April to send a statement to the field. He was coming off knee surgery two weeks earlier, and followed the operation with a miserable performance at Phoenix that had everyone doubting his title chances. He responded with the Texas win the very next week, silencing his critics. □

Broadcasters busy with online tie-ins for election

By DAVID BAUDER,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — After losing viewers to cable news networks on recent election nights, television's biggest broadcasters are fighting back hard for the midterm contest. ABC, CBS and PBS will each stream part of their election-night coverage on the Web on Tuesday, and NBC and ABC plan six hours of results lasting into early Wednesday morning. The networks will involve some of the biggest and most popular websites — Google, Facebook, YouTube and Yahoo! — in delivering their versions of the news.

Their moves are in marked contrast to recent big political nights, when network producers had to fight for limited time while looking jealously at CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC, and their abilities to stay on stories 24 hours a day.

"It's a full-time effort to reach as many people in as many places as possible and still have the big event on television at 9:30," said Jon Banner, executive producer of ABC's "World News" and in charge of ABC's special events coverage.

ABC will air election coverage from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. ET in prime time, anchored by

Diane Sawyer and George Stephanopoulos. From 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the two anchors will stream a live program on ABC's website, on Facebook and the ABC News iPad application.

A separate ABC Web-only newscast, anchored by John Berman and Claire Shipman, will be streamed on Hulu, mobile platforms and Yahoo! beginning at 7 p.m.

ABC and CBS, in particular, have moved aggressively toward the Web because, unlike NBC, they don't have a cable outlet for their reporting. It's an effort likely to continue.

"We're going to be in more places and more devices two and four years from now than we are this year," Banner said. CBS' Katie Couric has done frequent webcasts over the past couple of years and that's being incorporated in the network's plans this season. CBS will be on the air live for one hour in prime time, starting at 10 p.m. ET. Couric will anchor a live webcast for an hour after that.

For an hour before the TV network's telecast, CBS' "Washington Unplugged" will give election results and analysis online.

CBS will make some of its material available on YouTube

and has a partnership with Google Inc. for access to the company's analysis of the political races.

"The future is here," said Rick Kaplan, "CBS Evening News" executive producer. "You can sit here and say, 'I'll dabble,' but that's silly. There's so much that you can do now."

At some point, viewing habits for events such as election night will become nonlinear, with viewers not distinguishing between what they see on television or computer screens, Kaplan said. The 2008 election was considered a milestone in "two-screen" viewing: Viewers following returns on TV screens but looking up information at the same time online, said Mark Lukasiewicz, head of special events coverage for NBC News.

"There will be a point at which this kind of coverage is offered to people who want it, as opposed to shoving it down the throat of people who are more interested in watching a movie," Kaplan said. Couric will be joined in her coverage by Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer, senior political correspondent Jeff Greenfield and congressional correspondent Nancy Cordes. Election night two years



FILE - In this undated file publicity photo released by ABC, Diane Sawyer is shown on the ABC News set in New York. After losing viewers to cable news networks on recent election nights, television's biggest broadcasters are fighting back hard for the midterm contest. ABC, CBS and PBS will each stream part of their election-night coverage on the Web on Tuesday, and NBC plans six hours of results lasting into early Wednesday morning.

(AP Photo/ABC, Ida Mae Astute, File)

ago was a record day for the Internet and many of its news and social sites, a strong signal to many news executives of its potential.

Even while watching TV, many people used websites for "digging down" into results, checking how national trends affected elections in their hometowns. People went on social networks to talk about the results; Twitter set a record for its messaging that night; and news aggregator Digg had its greatest traffic.

Executives will be watching to see how many people make

use of smart phones or tablets like the iPad for following results this year. ABC's iPad app lets viewers play a "what if" interactive game, using their predictions to illustrate how they might affect the balance of power.

NBC comes on the air for two hours, starting at 9 p.m. ET, for a broadcast anchored by Brian Williams. His predecessor as anchor, Tom Brokaw, and "Meet the Press" moderator David Gregory, will join him. After a local news break, the NBC News team will be on the air for four hours after that. □

Blekko launches human-driven search engine

By DANA WOLLMAN,
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — If Google and Wikipedia were to procreate, their offspring might look something like Blekko, a new search engine with results culled by people, not computer algorithms.

The site's users are in charge of assigning tags such as "colleges," "autos" and "recipes" to Web pages indexed by Blekko, much the way Wikipedia users keep the online encyclopedia up to date by adding and changing entries as needed. If a tag doesn't already exist, a user can create it.

The search engine, which launched in public beta testing on Monday, claims improvement over competitors such as Google Inc. in that it's designed to weed out spam — sites whose owners have gamed the system so they appear at the top of search results, even if their content isn't relevant to the search keywords used.

Blekko also strips out results from content farms, which research trendy topics and then pay writers to pen short posts about them. These pages, which live on large sites such as eHow.com and Answers.com, rank highly on engines like Google, even if the

content itself is too brief to be useful.

The company expects that the quality of search results will improve as more people add more tags — and remove irrelevant ones — to organize the Web pages.

All told, Blekko has 3 billion Web pages in its index; industry leader Google has more than a trillion.

Users can narrow their searches by, say, asking Blekko to report back only on products sold at Best Buy Co. Inc. As with Google, people can also filter out certain types of results, such as images, that won't be useful to them.

The search engine's intelligence has its limits, though; users will need to know to distinguish "Best Buy" from "bestbuy."

The company has received \$24 million in funding from U.S. Venture Partners and CMEA Capital, as well as angel investors including Marc Andreessen, who was instrumental in developing the Web's first commercial browser, Netscape. In the future, the site plans to make money through ads that appear next to results for certain tags, just as Google sells ads tied to search keywords.

Its founder, Rich Skrenta, has been developing the

site since 2007. Before beginning work on Blekko, he created the Open Directory Project, which similarly relied on more than 80,000 volunteer editors to organize Web pages into more than 1 million categories. Ironically, before he set out to build a spam-free search engine in Blekko, he gained notoriety as the first person ever to let loose a personal computer virus — a quarter century ago as a ninth grader.

Blekko isn't the first search engine that attempts to let volunteer editors organize search results. Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia, launched Wikia in 2008, only to shut it the following year, saying it wasn't as successful as hoped. When Wikia launched, it indexed between 50 million and 100 million websites, a fraction of what even Blekko searches.

Other search engines have also attempted to compete with Google. Search engines such as Delver, Silobreaker and Cuil, the brainchild of ex-Google engineers, never took off. Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp. recently merged their search efforts to better compete, with Microsoft's Bing service handling the back-end work for both companies. □



FILE - In this June 14, 2010 file photo Joe Jackson, the father of the late pop star Michael Jackson, arrives to a Los Angeles courthouse for a preliminary hearing setting and motions in the trial of Jackson's personal doctor Conrad Murray.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut, file)

By **ANTHONY McCARTNEY**,
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES — A wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Michael Jackson's father will now be handled by a state

Judge declines to hear Jackson wrongful death case

court after a federal judge said Monday he didn't have authority to hear the case and that the singer's father would be unlikely to collect tens of millions of dollars in damages in his court.

Joe Jackson's attorney agreed to dismiss part of his case against the doctor charged in the pop superstar's death, which prompted the judge to rule that the remaining issues had to be heard in state court. U.S. District Judge John F. Walter opened a hearing Monday by telling Joe Jackson's attorney that he didn't think Jackson's father could receive any money from one of the major causes of action, which alleged the singer's rights were violated under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I am firmly convinced that you can't seek damages on this (disabilities act) cause of

action," Walter said.

The judge said that was the only federal issue in the case and he would not handle any other issues. "This is a creature of state law, this wrongful death claim," the judge said.

Joe Jackson's attorney, Brian Oxman, agreed to dismiss the ADA-related claim and said he would refile the case in Los Angeles Superior Court soon. Walter had previously expressed doubts that the case belonged in federal court, but had allowed it to remain until the case's first scheduling hearing Monday.

The lawsuit will likely join a case filed by the Jackson family patriarch's wife against concert promoter AEG Live. Katherine Jackson sued the company, which planned and promoted a series of London concerts Michael Jackson was preparing for when he died unexpectedly in June 2009.

She has accused the promoter of failing to give Dr. Conrad Murray lifesaving equipment and properly oversee him while he cared for her son during preparations for the concerts. AEG has said the lawsuit is meritless.

"Given the two cases pending, it makes no sense to have them separated," Oxman said. "It's a matter of practicality."

Murray has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and was named in Joe Jackson's lawsuit, but not in the case filed by Katherine Jackson.

Murray's attorney, Charles H. Peckham, told Walter that there would still be legal hurdles in state court for Joe Jackson's lawsuit. He said after the hearing that Murray will challenge whether the elder Jackson has the right to sue for wrongful death.

Authorities have accused Murray of giving Michael

Jackson a lethal dose of sedatives, including the anesthetic propofol, in the bedroom of the singer's rented mansion. Propofol is meant to be used in hospital settings. Murray has pleaded not guilty. Walter also said Monday he didn't want to wait for Murray's trial to conclude, and he warned the attorneys that if the case remained in his courtroom, it would not be significantly delayed.

"I'm not going to wait around for two years, if you think that's how long the criminal case is going to take," the judge said.

Murray is due back in criminal court Jan. 4 for the start of a preliminary hearing where prosecutors will lay out some of the evidence against him. His attorneys have said he did not give the one-time King of Pop anything that should have killed him. □



Musician Justin Bieber poses for a portrait while promoting his new book, 'Justin Bieber: First Step 2 Forever', in Los Angeles, Sunday, Oct. 31, 2010.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

Bieber promotes his book, talks music, God, hair

By **SANDY COHEN**,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Justin Bieber might be the modern king of all media.

The teen heartthrob has the Web wired — he's a YouTube discovery with almost 6 million followers on Twitter. He makes hit music, with an album and concert tour in the nation's top 20 and a new album on the way in a few weeks. He's got a movie coming out early next year, and on Sunday, he drew enough fans to temporarily shut down a Barnes & Noble bookstore where he promoted his autobiography, "First Step 2 Forever: My Story." More than 1,000 teen and tween girls, a handful of boys, and their parents waited in a long line that snaked through the popular Grove shopping center for a chance to meet the shaggy-haired Canadian singer. All had secured wristbands days earlier when they bought Bieber's book, a photo-packed hardcover about his rise to fame that sells for \$21.99. □

'Potter' leads parade of holiday film franchises

By **DAVID GERMAIN**,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — It's going to be series business this holiday season at the movies. One of Hollywood's biggest franchises is nearing an end. Others are returning after long absences. Still more Yuletide releases are taking baby steps toward becoming their own brand of sequels.

"With any of these, it's the unwritten rule: it goes without saying that if it works well commercially, if there's a following, the sequel is almost inevitable," said Will Ferrell, who provides the voice of the title character in the animated comedy "Megamind," which opens Friday to help launch the busy holiday movie season. Other returning series and franchise wannabes this November and December include "Little Fockers," reuniting the "Meet the Parents" gang; the C.S. Lewis fantasy "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader"; "Yogi Bear," a big-screen take on the TV cartoon; "Gulliver's Travels," transplanting Jonathan Swift's classic to modern times; and the science-fiction followup "Tron: Legacy."

Of course, the holiday heavyweight is the next-to-



In this film publicity image released by Paramount and DreamWorks Animation, Megamind, voiced by Will Ferrell, is shown in a scene from the animated feature 'Megamind.'

(AP Photo/DreamWorks Animation, Paramount Pictures)

last big-screen adventure of the world's favorite teen wizard. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final book in J.K. Rowling's fantasy phenomenon, comes to theaters in two parts, the first on Nov. 19, the second next July.

The finale sends Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and pals Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint) out on the road toward a last showdown with evil Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes).

After spending the last decade — roughly half their lives — on the "Harry Potter" films, the young stars felt greater urgency to satisfy fans with a big finish, Radcliffe said.

"We owe it to them as much as to ourselves to do a fantastic job on these last films," Radcliffe said. "We know

we've got this incredibly supportive fan base, and we know that huge amounts of people will see the films, and rather than frightening us, it just inspired us to make it the best we could."

Here's a look at other holiday highlights:

FAMILY FARE:

"Megamind" casts Ferrell's bulbous-headed super-villain against superhero Metro Man (voiced by Brad Pitt).

"Low and behold, I come across the day where I actually defeat him and control the city," Ferrell said. "I have everything I always dreamed of, and I'm miserable."

Also featuring the voices of Tina Fey and Jonah Hill, "Megamind" forces its villain to join the good guys to stop a new menace that threatens the city. □



Stocks retreat from early gains

By DAVID K. RANDALI,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks closed mixed Monday as traders waited for this week's election results and more details about the Federal Reserve's plan to stimulate the economy.

Stocks rose early in the day following reports of unexpected growth in the manufacturing industry in both the U.S. and China last month. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 125 points, led by manufacturers Caterpillar Inc., United Technologies Corp. and General Electric Co.

But stocks were unable to hold on to their gains ahead of the election and the two-day Fed meeting that starts Tuesday. The Dow fell steadily

throughout the day, briefly turning lower before a late rally gave it a modest advance. The Dow rose 6.13, or 0.1 percent, to finish at 11,124.62. The broad Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.12, or 0.1 percent, to 1,184.38, while the technology-focused Nasdaq composite index fell 2.57, or 0.1 percent, to 2,504.84.

In one sign of the mixed day in the stock market, half the industries that make up the Standard and Poor's 500 index fell, while the other half rose. Intel Corp. rose 2.5 percent to lead the 30 companies in the Dow, while Kraft Foods Inc. was the index's laggard with a 1.5 percent decline.

Investors have been assuming the Fed will launch a new program of buying Treasury

bonds to help stimulate the economy. Stocks rose for much of October because investors expect the Fed will announce as early as Wednesday that it plans to buy government debt in an effort to spark consumer spending and bank lending. Only in the last few days has the market rally trailed off amid questions about exactly how much the Fed will spend to buy bonds. The Dow rose 3.1 percent in October, including a 0.1 percent drop last week.

Lower interest rates weaken returns on debt, which would make stocks and commodities more attractive investments since their potential return would be significantly higher. Bond prices fell following the strong manufacturing report.



Trader Anthony Pugliese, left, uses his handheld device as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Nov. 1, 2010.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 2.63 percent from 2.60 percent late Friday.

The dollar rose 0.28 percent against a broad basket of

currencies. The Euro Stoxx 50, which tracks the performance of blue chip stocks in Europe, fell 1 point to 2,541.77. China's Shanghai Composite Index rose 2.5 percent, or 75.1, to 3,054.02. □

Economy offers mixed picture day before election



In this Oct. 25, 2010 photo, Carrie Warden, manager of The Sconelady's Coffee Shop, paints a sign for their fall coffee sale in Lawrence, Kan. Americans slowed their spending in September to the weakest pace in three months and their incomes fell by the largest amount in 14 months.

(AP Photo/Orlin Wagner)

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — A mixed picture of the economy emerged one day before key midterm elections

that have focused on the nation's financial health.

Spending by Americans slowed in September and their incomes fell for the first time in more than a year. At the same time, manufacturing activity grew by the most in five months and the weak construction industry showed a little life.

The new data reported by the government and a private trade group Monday suggest the economy is growing, albeit at an anemic pace. Some analysts worry that conditions could worsen after the election when government programs that have been propping up the economy end.

"With the job market as tough as it is and with government help beginning to fade, income gains are going to be very hard to come by," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Consumer spending is growing, but at a much slower rate than during the summer. It rose 0.2 percent in September after 0.5 percent gains in July and August, the Commerce Department said.

A major reason spending is slowing is that incomes fell for the first time since July 2009, just after the recession officially ended. The 0.1 percent decline in September followed a 0.4 percent rise in August that had been pushed higher by the return of extended unemployment benefits.

A separate report showed manufacturing activity expanded last month at the fastest pace since May — the 15th straight month for growth. The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index read 56.9 in October, up from 54.4 in September. A reading above 50 indicates growth.

And the struggling construction industry posted small gains in September, buoyed by increases in government projects and residential spending. The Commerce Department said spending on building projects rose 0.5 percent after having falling in August to the lowest point since July 2000. Even with the small September gain, construction activity remains 34 percent below the peak hit in 2006 when builders were enjoying a boom in residential housing.

"It is encouraging that economic growth no longer appears to be slowing. Nonetheless, the economy is not growing fast enough to reduce the unemployment rate or boost inflation," said Paul Dales, U.S. economist with Capital Economics.

In response to the weak economy, the Federal Reserve this week is expected to announce a program to buy Treasury bonds. The effort is designed to drive interest rates lower and spur economic activity.

Incomes fell in September after getting a notable boost in August from the reinstatement of an extended unemployment benefits program. The program had temporarily lapsed in July after Republicans had blocked an extension.

Those extended benefits expire at the end of November. It's unclear if Democrats can muster enough votes to pass another extension of benefits during a lame-duck session of Congress this month, especially in light of expected Republican election gains on Tuesday.

Zandi estimates roughly 1 million jobless workers a month, over six months, would be cut off from benefits if Congress declines to extend the program after the election. □



Photo illustration of alcohol on sale. Alcohol is more harmful than illegal drugs like heroin and crack cocaine, a new study by British researchers said Monday.

Study: Alcohol more lethal than heroin, cocaine

By MARIA CHENG,
 AP Medical Writer

LONDON—Alcohol is more dangerous than illegal drugs like heroin and crack cocaine, according to a new study. British experts evaluated substances including alcohol, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and marijuana, ranking them based on how destructive they are to the individual who takes them and to society as a whole.

Researchers analyzed how addictive a drug is and how it harms the human body, in addition to other criteria like environmental damage caused by the drug, its role in breaking up families and its economic costs, such as health care, social services, and prison.

Heroin, crack cocaine and methamphetamine, or crystal meth, were the most lethal to individuals. When considering their wider social effects, alcohol, heroin and crack cocaine were the deadliest. But overall, alcohol outranked all other substances, followed by heroin and crack cocaine. Marijuana, ecstasy and LSD scored far lower.

The study was paid for by Britain's Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and was published online Monday in the medical journal, *Lancet*.

Experts said alcohol scored so high because it is so widely used and has devastating consequences not only for drinkers but for those around them.

"Just think about what happens (with alcohol) at every football game," said Wim van den Brink, a professor of psychiatry and addiction at the University of Amsterdam. He was not linked to the study and co-authored a commentary in the *Lancet*.

When drunk in excess, alcohol damages nearly all organ systems. It is also connected to higher death rates and is involved in a greater percentage of crime than most other drugs, including heroin.

But experts said it would be impractical and incorrect to outlaw alcohol.

"We cannot return to the days of prohibition," said Leslie King, an adviser to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and one of the study's authors. "Alcohol is too embedded in

our culture and it won't go away."

King said countries should target problem drinkers, not the vast majority of people who indulge in a drink or two. He said governments should consider more education programs and raising the price of alcohol so it isn't as widely available.

Experts said the study should prompt countries to reconsider how they classify drugs. For example, last year in Britain, the government increased its penalties for the possession of marijuana. One of its senior advisers, David Nutt - the lead author on the *Lancet* study - was fired after he criticized the British decision.

"What governments decide is illegal is not always based on science," said van den Brink. He said considerations about revenue and taxation, like those garnered from the alcohol and tobacco industries, may influence decisions about which substances to regulate or outlaw.

"Drugs that are legal cause at least as much damage, if not more, than drugs that are illicit," he said. □

Cell-destroying protein to boost cancer fight: scientists

by Amy Coopes

SYDNEY — Australian and British scientists have uncovered a "death" protein that destroys rogue cells in what could be breakthrough for the fight against cancer, malaria and diabetes, researchers said Monday.

The protein, perforin, targets wayward cells and punches a hole in their membranes to let in killer enzymes, project leader James Whisstock said, adding the discovery "answers a really fundamental mystery of immunity".

"Perforin is our body's weapon of cleansing and death," said Whisstock, from Australia's Monash University.

"It breaks into cells that have been hijacked by viruses or turned into cancer cells and allows toxic enzymes in, to destroy the cell from within,"

he said. "Without it, our immune system can't destroy these cells." High-powered microscopes in Australia and at London's Birkbeck College had allowed scientists to examine perforin's structure and function, Whisstock said, revealing a "powerful molecule" that targets malignant or infected cells.

Without perforin -- released by "killer" cells designed to destroy harmful invaders -- the body was unable to fight infections. Studies with mice had linked defective perforin to leukaemia and heightened cell malignancy.

The discovery also had implications for autoimmune diseases such as juvenile type 1 diabetes and for transplant patients, with the protein linked to both the elimination of healthy cells and tissue

rejection, added Whisstock.

"Now we know how it works, we can start to fine-tune it to fight cancer, malaria and diabetes," Whisstock said.

Fellow researcher Joe Trapani said the 10-year study found that perforin's structure was similar to bacterial toxins like anthrax and listeria, suggesting that the human body had learned its tactics from diseases themselves.

"Quite remarkably that mechanism is conserved all the way back to bacteria... we've actually pinched it off bacteria at some point (in human evolution) and turned it back against them," said Trapani, from Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

"It's a war conducted between our immune system and bacteria and we're actually



Photo illustration of an electron microscope. Australian and British scientists have uncovered a "death" protein that destroys rogue cells in what could be breakthrough for the fight against cancer, malaria and diabetes, researchers said Monday.

fighting using similar weapons," he told AFP, explaining that it was two billion year old blueprint.

Trapani said the discovery had exciting and diverse applications ranging from "stuff in third-world countries with the malaria all the way through to more Western-style medicine with transplantation and so on."

Whisstock said researchers were looking for ways to

inhibit and boost perforin and use it to "deliver toxic cargoes into cells by choice", hoping to pave the way for new drugs.

"I have worked on this for a long time and it answers a really fundamental mystery of immunity," Whisstock told ABC radio. "So I think just from a fundamental science perspective, I think it is really, really important and it is actually also a really cool story." □

In Yemen bomb case, Saudi Arabia proves itself an antiterror partner of the US

When Americans think of terrorism and Saudi Arabia, they likely make this connection: It is the birthplace of Osama bin Laden and of 15 of the 19 hijackers from 9/11. But over the weekend, they learned “perhaps for the first time” that the Saudis are an essential antiterrorism partner of the United States.

It was a Saudi intelligence tip that alerted Washington to cargo bombs sent from Yemen to Jewish addresses in the US. Apparently, the inside knowledge came from a member of Al Qaeda who was released from Guantánamo Bay in 2006, then rehabilitated in a special Saudi program. Eventually, Jabr al-Faifi rejoined Al Qaeda in neighboring Yemen. But two weeks ago, he turned himself back in to Saudi authorities.

It will be interesting to see how Saudis react to this news of intelligence cooperation, especially the extremist, anti-West Wahhabist strain of Islam. Their government is helping thwart an attack on Jews – and hated Americans?

That tension underscores the challenge that the Saudi monarchy faces in partnering with Washington in the logistical fight against Islamic terrorists –

and longer term, in moving forward a country steeped in fundamentalist Islam. Riyadh has progressed speedily on the first count, and characteristically slowly on the second.

Not unusually, self-interest has propelled the Saudi royal family to bear down on Al Qaeda terrorists. The government took far too tolerant a stance until 2003 to 2005, when terrorists began targeting Saudi Arabia itself. Then the monarchy cracked down – with wide-reaching surveillance, SWAT teams, and financial measures. And it started a rehabilitation program for former terrorists to reorient themselves, and to help them find jobs.

The measures have reflected Saudi Arabia’s heavy-handed autocracy, but the US seems to have taken a “suffer it to be so now” approach. Indeed, Riyadh claims it has driven Al Qaeda out of Saudi Arabia. But many have gone next door to Yemen, where they swear to overthrow the Saudi monarchy. Still, the Saudis reportedly have intelligence links with this branch of Al Qaeda and they strongly back the Yemeni government.

Helpful to Riyadh is that popular Saudi support for Al Qaeda has fallen significantly since the

bloody domestic attacks earlier this decade. That makes it easier to take on the antiterrorist fight, even in concert with other Western governments. Earlier this month, the Saudis tipped off the French to a possible Al Qaeda attack.

Much harder is moving the country culturally forward from the grip of Wahhabi clerics who preach violence against other kinds of Muslims, Christians, and Jews. The country’s religious police enforce gender separation and dress codes, and those who violate Wahhabi law can receive severe penalties, including floggings.

But Saudi King Abdullah, who came to power in 2005, has moved toward reform inch by inch. He reshuffled the cabinet and put moderates in the place of staunch conservatives in the education and justice ministries – traditionally under Wahhabi influence. Earlier this year he restricted religious fatwas, or edicts. He has opened the country’s first co-ed university. And last month’s secular celebration of the nation’s founding – itself a new holiday created in 2005 – was notable for dancing in the streets and the relatively light touch of the religious police.

The West, of course,

would like King Abdullah to move more quickly with his reforms. For instance, revised textbooks still preach an ideology of hate toward non-Wahhabis. An intolerant Islam that supports hatred and violence creates a supportive atmosphere for terrorism.

For now, though, the US and other governments should count this weekend’s cooperation as a major intelligence victory and encourage more reform steps from the Saudi monarch.

He’s walking a rocky path. □

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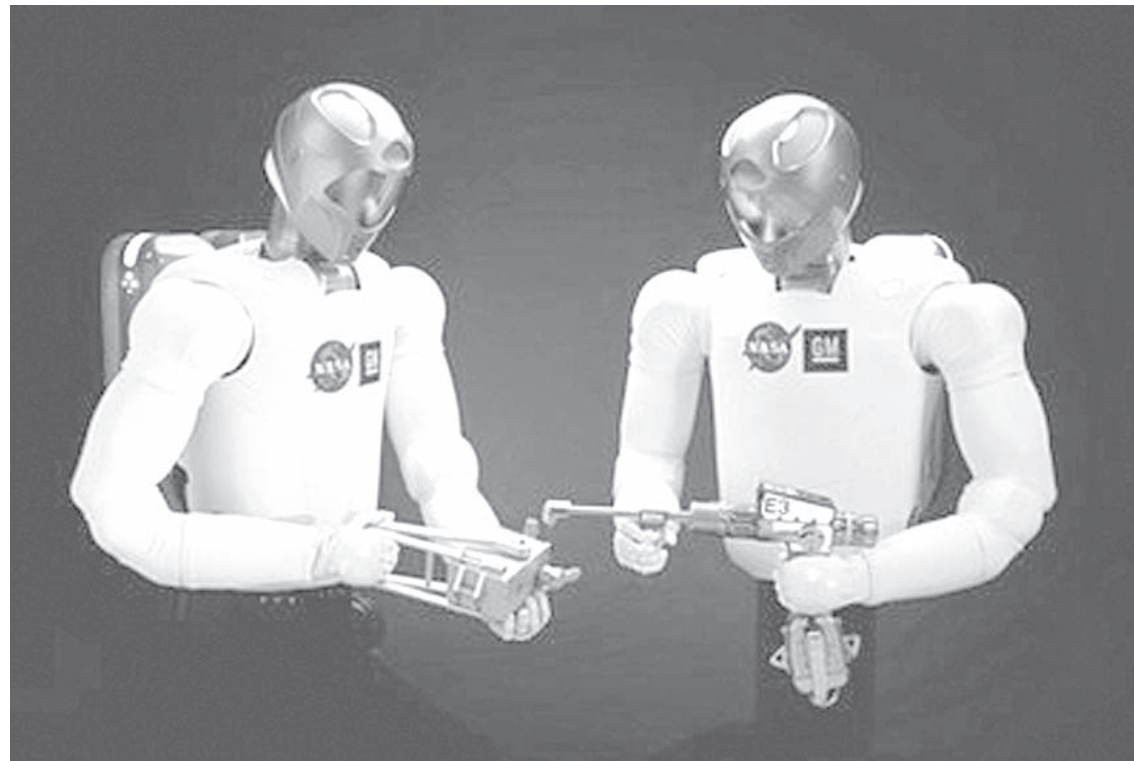
By **MARCIA DUNN**,
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space is about to get its first humanoid from planet Earth. Robonaut 2 — affectionately known as R2 — is hitching a one-way ride to the International Space Station this week aboard the final flight of space shuttle Discovery.

It's the first humanoid robot ever bound for space, a \$2.5 million mechanical and electrical marvel that NASA hopes one day will assist flesh-and-bone astronauts in orbit. Imagine, its creators say, a future where Robonaut could take over space station cleaning duties; spend hours outside in the extreme heat and cold, patiently holding tools for spacewalking astronauts; and handle emergencies like toxic leaks or fires.

Why, Robonaut's descendants could even scout out asteroids, Mars and other worlds in the decades ahead, paving the way for humans.

The adventure begins Wednesday afternoon, with the planned final launch of Discovery and Robonaut's six human crewmates. Mission managers gave the green light Monday for the new launch date; shuttle gas leaks had to be repaired before the countdown could begin and forced a two-day delay.

"While it might be just a single step for this robot, it's really a giant leap forward



This July 28, 2009 picture provided by NASA shows two Robonaut 2 robots in Houston. Robonaut 2 is hitching a one-way ride to the International Space Station on the final flight of the space shuttle Discovery scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010. NASA hopes one day the will assist flesh-and-bone astronauts in orbit.

(AP Photo/NASA, Robert Markowitz)

for tinmankind," said Rob Ambrose, acting chief of Johnson Space Center's automation, robotics and simulation division in Houston.

For now, R2 — a collaboration between NASA and General Motors — exists only from the waist up. It measures 3 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 330 pounds. Each arm is 2 feet 8 inches long.

Legs are still in the works. But, oh, what an upper body: perfectly toned arms and hands with palms, a robotic rarity, along with broad shoulders and a washboard stomach. Arnold

Schwarzenegger, Hollywood's cyborg Terminator, would be proud.

Watch Robonaut lifting a 20-pound dumbbell, and "you can kind of feel the burn," Ambrose said, showing a video at a recent news conference.

Unlike people who tend to cheat, "this robot will really do what the physical trainers tell you to do, which is to do the bicep curls nice and slow," he said.

Made of aluminum and nickel-plated carbon fiber, the torso and arms are padded to protect Robonaut and the astronauts, all the way down to the five

fingers on each hand. No metal, bony-looking fingers for this robot.

R2's eyes are where they should be: in its gold-colored head. Four visible light cameras are located behind the robot's visor, and an infrared camera is in its mouth for depth perception.

But its brain is in its tummy; engineers had nowhere else to put the computerized gray matter.

A backpack holds a power system for plugging R2 into the space station. On an asteroid or Mars, the backpack would contain batteries.

The joints are filled with springs for give, and more than 350 electrical sensors are scattered throughout, allowing R2 to sense even a feather with its fingertips.

NASA began working on its first dexterous robot — the landlubbing Robonaut 1 — in 1997. Lacking money, the project ceased in 2006. General Motors stepped in with the intention of improving car manufacturing and better protecting workers. Early this year, the much speedier R2 was unveiled.

NASA made room for the robot on one of its last few shuttle flights. It is Discovery's 39th mission and the next-to-last shuttle flight for NASA, although an additional trip may be added next year.

R2 is boxed up and stowed away for launch. Its identical twin — identical on the outside, anyway — is at Kennedy Space Center, posing for pictures and awaiting liftoff.

"I'm not even a little nervous; NERVES OF ALUMINUM!!!" R2 said last week in a Twitter update under AstroRobonaut. (OK, so a NASA public relations woman and Robonaut team member are serving as ghost tweeters.)

The robot will remain tucked away at the space station until late December — a nice Christmas present for the station's six inhabitants, Ambrose figures.

While the space station already has Canadian and Japanese robotic arms — resembling cranes — human operators are needed. Once given orders, R2 can carry out preprogrammed tasks by itself.

First will come a series of tests to see how Robonaut operates in weightlessness atop a fixed pedestal.

Legs will be needed before Robonaut can tackle indoor chores like wiping handrails or vacuuming air filters. NASA hopes to send up legs in late 2011, followed a year later by torso and computer enhancements enabling the robot to venture out on spacewalks. □

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Presidenta electa Rousseff comienza transición pro mercado en Brasil

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - La presidenta electa de Brasil, Dilma Rousseff, nombró el lunes a un equipo de transición pro mercado mientras se prepara para dirigir a una pujante economía que corre el riesgo de verse afectada por un alto gasto gubernamental y una moneda sobrevaluada.

Rousseff, que basó su campaña en la continuación del legado del presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, ganó su primera elección el domingo, cuando los brasileños votaron ampliamente a favor de la continuidad.

Tras una amarga campaña en la que ofreció pocos puntos específicos sobre sus políticas, la ex jefa de Gabinete de Lula eligió a un equipo de transición de siete miembros, compuesto principalmente por elementos moderados del izquierdista Partido de los Trabajadores (PT), dijo a Reuters un asesor cercano.

El principal entre ellos es Antonio Palocci, un respetado ex ministro de Hacienda de Lula que es popular en Wall Street y que probablemente tendrá un rol prominente en el Gobierno de Rousseff, quizás el de jefe de Gabinete.

Entre otros destacan José Eduardo Dutra, presidente del PT y ex presidente ejecutivo de la petrolera estatal Petrobras; Fernando Pimentel, ex alcalde de Belo Horizonte; y Marco Aurelio Garcia, asesor de política exterior de Lula.

subió un 1,26 por ciento .

Palocci, el rostro de la austeridad durante el Gobierno de Lula, sugirió que el presupuesto podría ser ajustado para desacelerar el gasto.

“Hoy en día no existe una crisis fiscal en Brasil (...) pero no tenemos problemas con encontrar los ahorros que Brasil necesita mantener en sus proyecciones de deuda en una tendencia a la baja”, dijo Palocci en una entrevista con el diario Folha de S.Paulo.

Aún así, a analistas les preocupa que Rousseff no esté suficientemente comprometida con cambios más amplios, como una reforma de la previsión social y su sofocante burocracia, pasos fundamentales para un crecimiento a largo plazo.

“Desafortunadamente parece que no hay espacio para las reformas estructurales que Brasil necesita para optimizar el gasto público”, dijo Alberto Bernal, jefe de investigación de Bulltick Capital Markets.

La ex activista de izquierda de 62 años se comprometió en su discurso de victoria a extender “una nueva era de prosperidad”, que ha sacado a 20 millones de brasileños de la pobreza para instalarlos en la clase media e hizo que el país entrara el grupo BRIC de potencias económicas emergentes, junto a Rusia, la India y China. □



La presidenta electa de Brasil, Dilma Rousseff.

Tormenta Tomás amenaza Haití y Dominicana

KINGSTOWN, San Vicente (AP) - Ya sin fuerza de huracán, la tormenta tropical Tomás cruzaba el lunes las aguas cálidas del Caribe, mientras los meteorólogos advierten que el meteoro probablemente retome fuerza y suponga una amenaza para Haití, en particular los abarrotados campamentos de refugiados por el terremoto de enero.

El meteoro ya ha causado cinco muertes en el oriente del Caribe, donde las pequeñas islas aún evaluaban el daño que dejó Tomás el fin de semana, cuando todavía era huracán. Tomás salió del umbral de fuerza que lo clasificaba como huracán el domingo por la noche. El Centro Nacional de Huracanes de Miami predijo que se debilitará más aún más antes de recuperarse de nuevo a mediados de semana.

En ese momento, se espera que Tomás vire hacia el norte, en dirección a Haití, donde cerca de 1,3 millones de personas viven bajo carpas y tiendas de campaña que son vulnerables a las fuertes lluvias y vientos. Daniel Brown, un meteorólogo del centro, dijo que Tomás “probablemente

se fortalezca cuando esté sobre el Caribe central” y que Haití podría comenzar a recibir lluvias de las bandas externas de la tormenta en un par de días.

El lunes, los vientos máximos sostenidos de Tomás eran de 85 kph (50 mph). El vórtice del meteoro se localizaba a 220 kilómetros (135 millas) al noreste de Curazao y avanzaba hacia el oeste a 22 kph (14 mph).

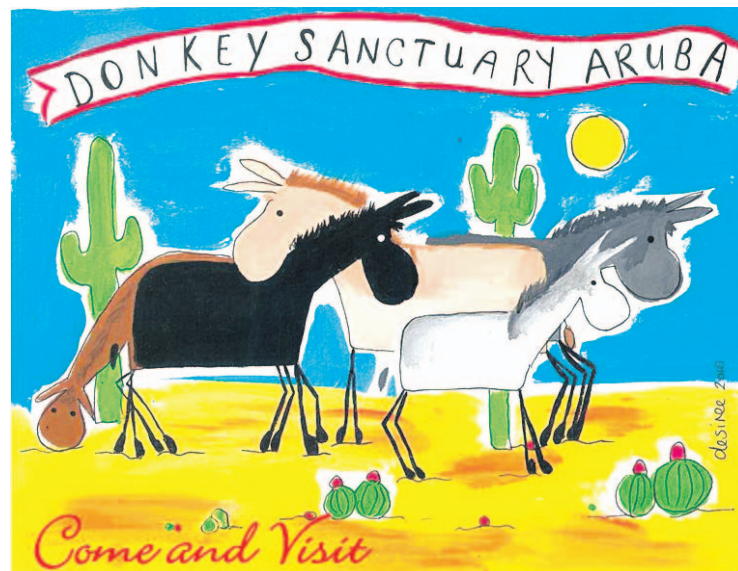
Según el pronóstico del Centro Nacional de Huracanes de Estados, con sede en Miami, la tormenta girará el jueves hacia el norte para cruzar de norte a sur la isla La Hispaniola, que comparten Haití y República Dominicana. Brown dijo que es prematuro pronosticar qué tan fuerte será Tomás en los días siguientes o si Haití sufrirá un azote directo. Algunos temen lo peor si Tomás golpea a Haití, donde cientos de miles de personas tiene sólo refugios rudimentarios casi 10 meses después del terremoto del 12 de enero y un brote de cólera ha matado a más de 330 personas y mandado al hospital a 5.000 más. □

Obama felicita a Rousseff

WASHINGTON (AP) - El presidente Barack Obama llamó por teléfono el lunes a la mandataria electa brasileña Dilma Rousseff para felicitarla por su victoria electoral y expresarle sus deseos de intensificar las relaciones entre los dos países, informó la Casa Blanca en un comunicado.

Obama felicitó a Rousseff por su “histórica victoria” y elogió al pueblo brasileño por su “compromiso con la democracia”, dice la declaración. Agrega que el presidente le expresó a la próxima gobernante brasileña su “compromiso para hallar nuevas formas de colaboración y su deseo de fijar una reunión pronto”.

Obama quiere cooperar más en “temas como la energía sostenible, el crecimiento económico mundial, la asistencia para la reconstrucción de Haití, los proyectos mutuos de desarrollo y otros temas de importancia mundial”, dice el comunicado. □





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We warmly welcome you to Tango Restaurant located at Arawak Gardens!
For reservations please call 586 8600 or send an email to tango@arubawineanddine.com.

Prices are excluding 15% service charge and tax

Located at Arawak Garden, High Rise Hotels
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